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Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer



Rotunda Rumblings

Talk of the town(ship): State rules for townships in Ohio would change in a number of ways under new House Bill 500, from Republican Rep. Rick Carfagna. The measure is a grab-bag of changes that various townships around the state are seeking, according to Carfagna (a former township trustee). The bill would, among other things, require boards of township trustees to elect a chair every year, allow townships to impose a tax of up to 5 percent on cover charges for performances and on the price of scalped tickets beyond the face-value cost, allow townships to tax beyond Ohio's "10-mill limitation" for up to a decade for road and infrastructure projects, and no longer require township zoning commissions to submit zoning plans to county or regional planning commissions for approval.

Double-check: New legislation from state Sen. (and Republican secretary

of state candidate) Frank LaRose would require every county board of elections to conduct a "risk-limiting audit" of at least three races or ballot issues after general and special elections. Under Senate Bill 256, bipartisan teams of elections officials would hand count randomly sampled ballots from the selected races to ensure the initial election result is correct.

'Pragmatic conservative': That's how Gov. John Kasich now labels himself when it comes to the gun debate. As reported Sunday by Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock, a pro-gun section of Kasich's political website was scrubbed Sunday after Kasich appeared on CNN and advocated for "reasonable" gun control measures. By Monday, as Ohio Public Radio/TV Statehouse bureau chief Karen Kasler noted on Twitter, JohnKasich.com had a new section called "Common sense on the Second Amendment."

Taylor returns fire: Kasich's lieutenant governor and frenemy-in-chief Mary Taylor took a shot at her one-time political partner over the gun issue. "All too often in the aftermath of these tragic events, there is [a] knee-jerk reaction to attack the 2nd Amendment rights of our citizens rather than to address the root causes, which often center around mental illness," Taylor, a GOP gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement Monday. "Restricting the rights of law abiding Ohioans to legally purchase a gun does not do that. Neither does removing your prior support for pro-2nd Amendment legislation from a website."

School project: Attorney general and GOP gubernatorial frontrunner Mike DeWine also doesn't favor additional gun-control measures as a result of the Florida high-school shooting, according to a spokesman. But DeWine's campaign on Monday released a plan to protect schools from violent attacks. If elected, DeWine would seek to ensure there is a licensed mental-health professional in every Ohio school (his spokesman said it's unclear how much that would cost or how to pay for it). In addition, the AG would direct Ohio's Strategic Analysis and Information Center (set up after 9/11 to prevent terrorist attacks) to monitor social media for threats to attack schools. Finally, DeWine would seek to ensure that Ohio court records are made available to the state (and, therefore, federal) law-enforcement database, so a criminal conviction wouldn't be overlooked during a background check to buy a gun.

It would be 'great': We know that Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown have found some common ground on the issue of trade. Now Brown, following up on a meeting at the White House last week with Trump and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, has extended an invitation. "I invite you to come to Ohio and tour a steel mill with me," reads a letter from Brown to Trump. Who knows how the gesture (some might call it a stunt) will be received, but Brown certainly spoke Trump's language. He praised Trump's recent action protecting domestic washing machine manufacturers, called American workers "the best in the world," and concluded by telling the president: "I hope we can plan this great event together."

Venturing out: Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan says he plans to take a delegation of venture capitalists on "tour of heartland cities to learn what it will take to get more investment flowing to companies in these cities." The tour will begin Wednesday with stops in Youngstown and Akron, then head west to Michigan and Indiana.

Health issue: The pro-Obamacare group Save My Care is airing a new 30-second ad in Cincinnati this week (as well as online statewide) encouraging Ohioans to call on Congress to "stop the partisan war on health care." The ad, titled "Enough is Enough," is part of a national ad buy by the group, according to spokeswoman Amanda Wurst.

Everyone's a winner: The Republican Party of Cuyahoga County on Sunday endorsed both GOP candidates in Ohio House District 6: Michael Canty and Jim Trakas. Canty and Trakas had each called for a joint endorsement, saying they want to minimize GOP infighting so the district (held by term-limited Republican Rep. Marlene Anielski) doesn't fall into Democratic hands.

Stories We're Talking About

More on guns and the governor's race: Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich on Monday launched a push for a statewide ban on AR-15 style semiautomatic weapons, cleveland.com's Mark Naymik reports. Kucinich, who held at a rally in Cleveland with his running mate,

Akron Councilwoman Tara Samples, wants communities to pass resolutions urging the state legislature to act. But as Naymik notes, the General Assembly is "dominated by Republican gun-rights advocates who have passed numerous laws loosening gun restrictions."

Presidents among us? Well, their namesakes, anyway. For some Presidents Day fun, cleveland.com's data expert Rich Exner searched the records of Ohio's nearly 8 million registered voters to see if he could find any names matching the eight presidents with ties to our state. And for good measure, he looked for any Donald Trumps.

More Presidents Day fun: Although Rutherford B. Hayes didn't show up on the current Ohio voter rolls, he did appear at the top of another list: He was found by a new study to be the nation's healthiest president, cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton reports. Trump, whose doctor recently declared him "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," rated number 26.

ICYMI: Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor says she would vote for rival Mike DeWine over a Democrat in the governor's race. But she doesn't think it'll come to that, because she plans to win the Republican nomination. Taylor talked about the campaign, her upbringing and lots more in the latest episode of Ohio Matters, cleveland.com's politics podcast. You can check out all the episodes here.

Not an oxymoron: The Columbus Dispatch's Marion Renault has a story on "conservative conservationists," featuring Republican Sarah Spence, government affairs director for the Ohio Environmental Council.

Full Disclosure

Five things we learned from Tiffin Republican Rep. Bill Reineke's June 9 ethics disclosure.

1. He was nearly a month late turning in the form, which was due May 15.
2. He earned \$100,000 or more at Tiffin Ford-Lincoln Inc, of which he was president, and at least \$100,000 at Reineke Ford Lincoln. Ford Motor Co.

paid him \$25,000 to \$49,999. He was involved in 20 business entities in 2016. As a legislator, he earned \$63,917 that year.

3. He listed 47 investments in 2016, including stock in his own companies, a money market with Edward Jones, retirement with Nationwide, and stock with Citigroup, Apple, Alcoa and Cisco.

4. The state reimbursed him \$3,347.76 for mileage in 2016.

5. He received a \$125 ticket from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to its annual meeting and brunch from the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association worth \$19.

On the Move

Samantha Herd has been named chief of staff to Democratic lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton, according to a campaign release. Herd, a longtime Cincinnati resident, was political director on Sutton's gubernatorial campaign last year and served as Sutton's district director for her congressional office between 2011 and 2013.

What's Going On

10 a.m. – Ohio Ballot Board meeting: The board is set to consider approving language for the congressional redistricting ballot issue and determine whether a proposed Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection constitutional amendment contains only one proposed amendment. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

10 a.m. – House Ways and Means Committee: The panel may amend and vote on House Bill 337, which would create a sales tax exemption for college textbooks. *Room 121, Ohio Statehouse.*

11 a.m. – Lawmakers to unveil bill to make fishing/hunting licenses cheaper: State Sens. Joe Uecker and Sean O'Brien, as well as state Reps. Jonathan Dever and Jack Cera, are slated to attend. *Harding Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Rep. Wes Retherford fundraising luncheon:
Sponsor levels for the Hamilton Republican range from \$350 to \$1,000.
OHROC, 7th floor, 21 W. Broad St.

Noon – Black History Month performance: The 45-minute show will feature Anthony Gibbs performing "Fighting for Freedom: Ohio's Black Civil War Soldiers." *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

1:30 p.m. – Senate session.

5 p.m. – Cordray, Sutton to rally with Lorain-area labor leaders:
Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray and running mate Betty Sutton are expected to speak out against "right to work" legislation in the Ohio House. *Laborers' Union Local 758 Hall, 2089 N. Ridge Rd., Lorain.*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Women of POWER networking reception and fundraiser: Proceeds from the sold-out event benefit John Glenn College of Public Affairs non-partisan leadership programs that help Ohio women run for political office. *Capital Club, 41 S. High St.*

5:30 to 7 p.m. – Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser:
Sponsor levels range from \$500 to \$2,500. *Suite 1650, 88 E. Broad St.*

Straight From The Source

"His slam dunk for justice is needed."

- The Rev. Jesse Jackson, defending LeBron James after Fox News commentator Laura Ingraham criticized the Cleveland Cavaliers star for his recent comments about social issues.

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From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:15 AM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti

Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of

family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

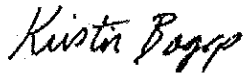
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 12:49 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Testifies on the Negative Impacts of Tax Exemptions

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February 20, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute Testifies on the Negative Impacts of Tax Exemptions

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 337

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, highlighting the ways that tax credits and exemptions cost Ohio and Ohioans money, and how they complicate the state's tax code making it more difficult for taxpayers to fill-out their returns.

After outlining how the **Ohio Department of Taxation** defines a tax expenditure, Lawson stated Buckeye's long-held position on these types of exemptions saying, "The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends."

Citing research from the **Tax Foundation**, Lawson went on to highlight the particular problem exemptions place on counties located on Ohio's borders. "Adopting too many sales tax exceptions risks forcing some counties to raise their tax rates, which will in turn make them less competitive...and higher rates could prove an even greater competitive disadvantage for counties along our borders."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 337
Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
February 20, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 337 and Ohio's tax policy.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, a tax expenditure is any tax policy that has the following four characteristics:[1]

- The item reduces, or has the potential to reduce, one of the state's General Revenue Fund taxes;
- The item would have been part of the defined base;
- The item is not subject to an alternative tax; and
- The item is subject to change by state legislative action.

The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends.

As exceptions to the tax code, tax expenditures effectively narrow the tax base. The narrower the tax base the higher and more confiscatory taxes become for those still subject to the tax. Thus, tax expenditures, however unintentionally or well-intended, eventually pick economic winners and losers through their preferential treatment under the law.

Flatter taxes, by contrast, levied on broader bases and without special exemptions, lower the tax burden and spread the cost of the tax more evenly and fairly among taxpayers.

Additionally, adopting too many sales tax exceptions risks forcing some counties to raise their tax rates, which will in turn make them less competitive. According to the Tax Foundation, Ohio already has the highest average combined state and local sales tax rate among its neighbors, and higher rates could prove an even greater competitive disadvantage for counties along our borders.[2]

Tax policies that may put more of our counties at a greater disadvantage is not sound tax policy for Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] State of Ohio, **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tax Expenditure Report**, Office of Budget and Management, November 25, 2016.

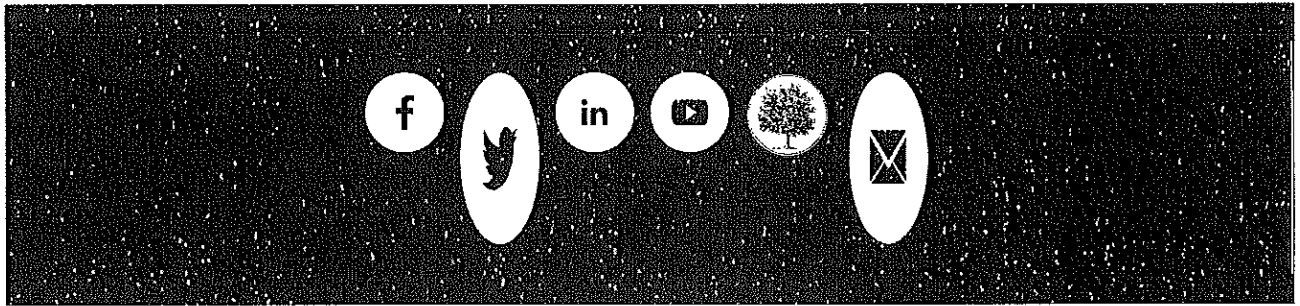
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[2] Jared Walczak and Scott Drenkard, **State and Local Sales Tax Rates 2018**, The Tax Foundation, February 2018.

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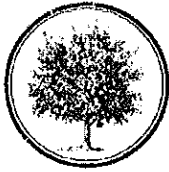
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The Buckeye Institute's Rea Hederman Praises Initial Steps in Waiver Process, Says More Needs to be Done

Columbus, OH -- On Friday, the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Department of Medicaid kicked-off the public comment period for two Medicaid waivers that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rea S. Hederman Jr., who is executive director of the Economic Research Center at **The Buckeye Institute**, vice president of policy, and a nationally recognized expert on health care policy, and the author of *Returning Health Care Power to the States: The Affordable Care Act's Section 1332 Waiver for State Innovation*, issued the following statement.

"Last week, the state of Ohio took the initial step towards improving health care for Ohioans, ensuring that Medicaid is available to the neediest and is sustainable for future generations.

"In requesting a waiver that will include a work or community engagement requirement for healthy adults, Ohio will bring its Medicaid program in-line with other federal-state welfare programs that **already require beneficiaries to work** or engage in work-related activities. The new waiver signals that healthy adults need to work, volunteer, or attend school in order to receive their Medicaid benefits. This is a good step forward, but more reforms are needed such as cost sharing provisions like premiums, health savings accounts, a limitation on retroactive eligibility, and other tools that prepare and help Medicaid recipients transition to private health care coverage.

"Many of these policies are contained in the Healthy Ohio program that the General Assembly has long sought but was vetoed in the last budget. While the Ohio House of Representatives has overridden that veto, the Senate must still act in order to move the program forward.

"The second waiver follows through on an **idea that was initially developed and championed by The Buckeye Institute**, which is using a 1332 state innovation waiver to exempt Ohio from the individual mandate. This innovation waiver should be easily approved by the federal government, since the current mandate penalty has been eliminated by Congress. Through this waiver, Ohioans will be protected from the individual mandate tax for the next five years, even if Congress reinstates the mandate penalty. Like the Medicaid waiver, this innovation waiver is only one step on the road to a better health care system.

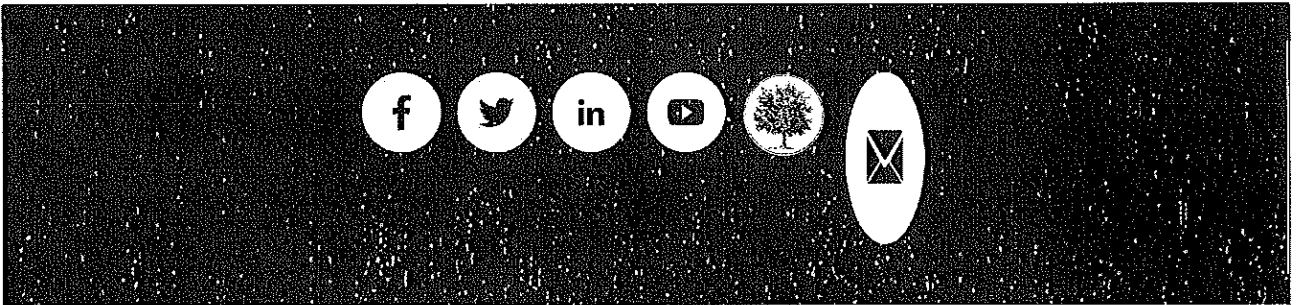
"Over the past year, the Trump Administration has promised flexibility in working with the states, and they have started to deliver. It is smart policy for Ohio to seize this opportunity but more is needed to fix both Medicaid and the insurance markets and ensure they work for Ohioans."

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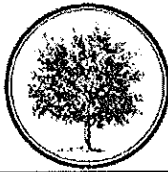
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Montgomery County Provides More Evidence that Ohio Needs Bail Reform

By Daniel J. Dew
February 21, 2018

Ohio's cash bail system remains broken. Just ask **Markcus Brown**, the man locked-up for nine days because he did not meet the RTA's dress code and he could not afford bail after his arrest for "trespassing" at the bus station. Mr. Brown's case is another stark reminder that the cash bail status quo does a remarkably poor job of determining which defendants should be released before trial and which should wait in jail.

Aware of the bail system's shortcomings, the Montgomery County Commissioners recently **studied the bail practices** of the county's Court of Common Pleas and its municipal courts. The study found that from 2014 to 2017, defendants in the Montgomery County municipal courts on supervised release appeared for court 20 percent more often than those out on cash bail. Similarly, in the county's Court of Common Pleas, defendants released using cash bail were nearly twice as likely to skip

court as those released without any financial conditions, and defendants released with supervision performed comparably to those out on bail.

The Montgomery County study provides more compelling evidence that cash bail has little-if any-real correlation to defendants appearing for their court dates. Instead, the study found that even though bail did not improve court appearance rates, the Court of Common Pleas had an overall appearance rate 26 percent higher due in part to its use of the **Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)**.

The ORAS gives judges additional information about pre-trial defendants, helping them make a more accurate assessment of each defendant's flight-risk and the potential threat that he or she poses to the community. Not surprisingly, after using the ORAS tools, the Montgomery Court of Common Pleas had a nearly 19 percent higher appearance rate for those released on bail, and a 42 percent higher appearance rate for those released on their own recognizance.

Unfortunately, Montgomery County municipal courts do not use risk-assessment tools and must instead rely on the limited information found in the case file or a ham-fisted bail schedule that crudely monetizes each alleged offense. Thus, municipal judges remain at a pre-trial disadvantage-and their communities and defendants continue to suffer for it.

The special interests in favor of preserving cash bail's faulty status quo contend that pre-trial risk-assessment tools are subjective and time-intensive-ignoring the tools used in places like Ohio's own Lucas County, for example, that have achieved better results using fewer than 10 objective data points such as prior failures to appear, convictions for violence, and age.

Lucas County courts have achieved remarkable results using the **Public Safety Assessment (PSA)** tool developed by the **Laura and John Arnold Foundation**. Since implementing the nine-factor assessment tool, crime in Lucas County committed by defendants awaiting trial has been cut in half and more defendants show-up for court, even as the number of defendants released without bail has doubled.

Montgomery County's careful study adds to the growing body of scientific evidence that risk-assessment tools work, while the traditional cash bail system does little to ensure a defendant's appearance for trial. The county commissioners were right to take a hard, honest look at the systems and tools that judges must rely on to decide who poses a

flight-risk, who may endanger the community, and who can be trusted to do no harm and return for trial. Cash alone cannot and does not accurately answer these questions.

Justice and public safety demand that Ohio and more of our local communities follow the examples of Montgomery and Lucas counties, and begin to give their judges the right kinds of tools for the job.

Daniel J. Dew is a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and the author of "Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live.

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The Buckeye Institute's Greg Lawson: Court Ruling Allows Ohio Small Businesses to Focus on Growing and Creating Jobs

Columbus, OH - Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding Franklin County Judge David Cain's decision to uphold a provision in Ohio's budget that allows the state to collect municipal business-profit taxes from cities, counties, and villages.

"The **decision** by Franklin County Judge David Cain to uphold an Ohio law that allows businesses, that must file tax returns in multiple jurisdictions, to voluntarily consolidate their filings through the state is an important step in reforming our broken tax system.

"**The Buckeye Institute**, along with national organizations such as the **Tax Foundation**, have long called for Ohio to fix its byzantine municipal income-tax system, which is one of

the most complicated and unfair systems in the nation, and continues to be a significant obstacle to Ohio's economic growth.

"The reform, passed in the most recent **biennial budget**, is a solid step towards fixing our tax code and it is disappointing that many local officials would rather sue the state than repair a system that harms Ohio's small business owners who don't have the money to hire high priced accountants.

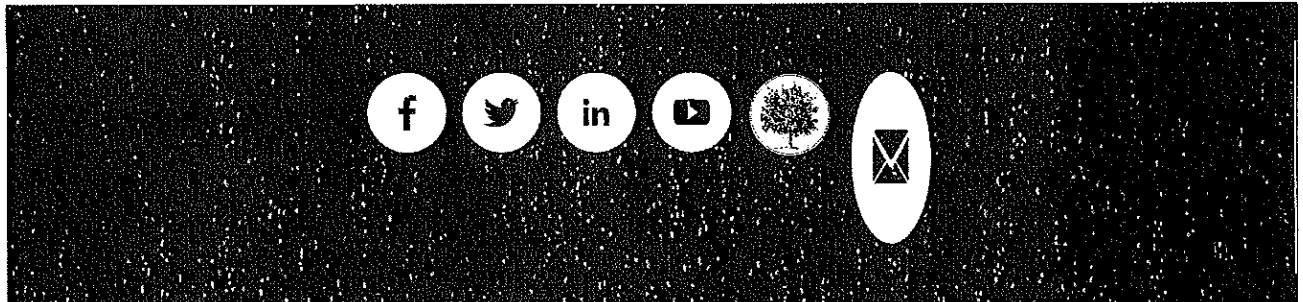
"No doubt this won't be the end of the story as appeals will likely be filed. But today, Ohio businesses can breathe a little easier and focus on growing and creating jobs."

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 6:16 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Lawmaker looks to expand Ohio's outdoor drinking law

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Friday, Feb. 23, 2018

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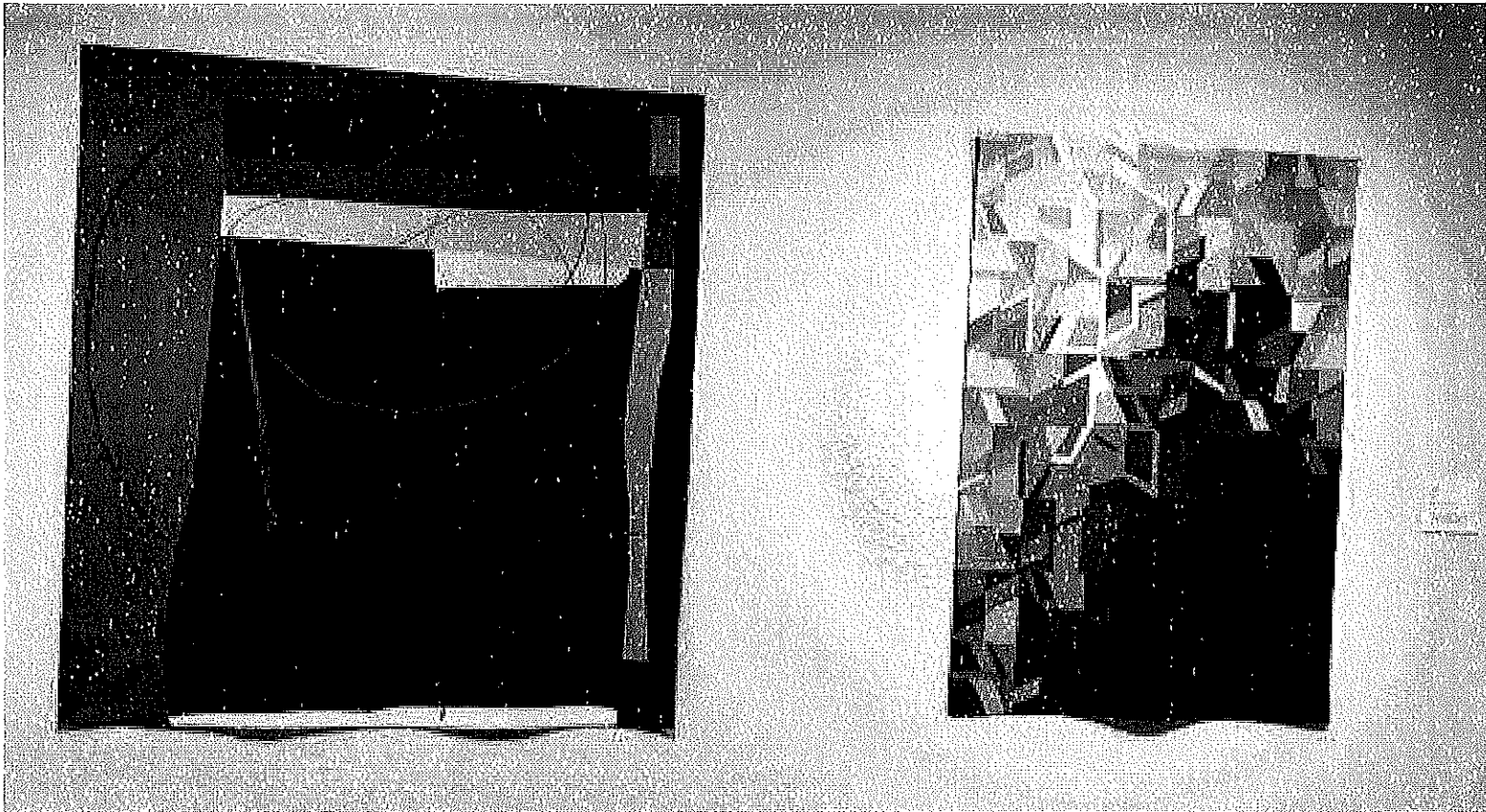
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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Contemporary art quilts hang in the Riffe Gallery from the Quilt National '17 exhibition, a biennial juried competition produced by the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens. The exhibition is free. It's across the street from the Statehouse in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts and continues through April 14. (Laura Hancock, Capitol Letter.)

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Rotunda Rumblings

= 9 **Booze news:** A new bill from Rep. Laura Lanese seeks to allow temporary outdoor drinking areas in Ohio. In 2015, state legislators passed a law allowing permanent "designated outdoor refreshment areas," but it didn't cover temporary liquor permits, or "CF-permits," used for events such as outdoor festivals. Lanese, a Grove City Republican, told Capitol Letter she doesn't foresee much opposition to House Bill 522, noting that it has the support of the state Division of Liquor Control.

= 9 **Appeal in the works:** The more than 160 cities and villages whose challenge to a centralized state taxing system was denied have ordered

their attorneys to appeal the case to a higher court. Capitol Letter reported Thursday that a Franklin County Common Pleas judge rejected the challenge to the Ohio Business Gateway, which allows companies to pay muni taxes to the state instead of each community where they do business. While businesses argue the new system saves time and money, munis feel it is a violation of home rule. Kent Scarrett of the Ohio Municipal League said the communities don't think the judge considered some of their points and want another shot before a higher court.

= 9 **Name game:** The Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee this week held a second hearing on anti-fraud legislation that would create a system to notify Ohio businesses when someone seeks to open a business under a similar name. Senate Bill 179 would also require limited-liability companies registered in Ohio to maintain an agent in the state and notify the Ohio secretary of state's office when such agents change their address or identity. Sen. Frank LaRose, during sponsor testimony before the committee last fall, said he brought the bill after hearing of an Ohio business' troubles with a fraudulent foreign company that opened under a similar name.

= 9

Cordray goes on the offensive: Democrat Richard Cordray's gubernatorial campaign went negative against primary rival Dennis Kucinich for the first time Thursday, releasing an email blasting Kucinich's "long, and bizarre, support of President Trump" and taking him to task for deleting a tweet praising Trump's inauguration speech. While Cordray is still considered the frontrunner in the Democratic primary, the attack shows that Team Corday is concerned enough about Kucinich that they feel the need to go negative. But Cordray spokesman Mike Gwin, who sent out the email, denied that his campaign is worried, writing to Capitol Letter that he's just "not going to pass up an opportunity for a layup."

= 9 **Kucinich gets Berned:** Kucinich's campaign is trying to claim U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders' endorsement by association after he was backed by Our Revolution, Sanders' post-presidential campaign organization. But Sanders, speaking with the Washington Post, pretty explicitly ruled out any direct endorsement of Kucinich. "I've known Dennis Kucinich forever. I consider him a friend," Sanders said. "But I am not making an endorsement there."

= 9 Lawmakers target school safety: Following last week's mass shooting at a Florida high school, Ohio lawmakers have been focused more on improving school safety than on tougher gun-control regulations. Senate President Larry Obhof said earlier this week that he's had preliminary talks with Minority Leader Kenny Yuko about working together to make schools safer – including, he said, increasing funding for safety programs. Already, Democratic Sen. Joe Schiavoni has introduced legislation that would provide grants to school districts to improve their safety measures. In the House, meanwhile, House Education Committee Chair Andrew Brenner announced that legislation will be introduced so his committee can hear testimony from experts about what lawmakers can do to improve school safety. Democratic Sens. Mike Skindell and Charleta Tavares did introduce legislation Tuesday to ban assault weapons and require gun registrations in Ohio, but it's unlikely that their bill will move anywhere fast.

= 9

Teachers packing heat? Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, after a Thursday panel discussion at the Conservative Political Action Conference, shared her thoughts on gun control. Don't restrict Second Amendment rights, she said, and instead address mental health issues that cause people to target schools. She also wants to better secure schools, including arming teachers: "I don't have a problem with teachers being armed, and training teachers," she said.

= 9 Musical chairs: House Republicans on Thursday announced a number of new committee vice-chairs, including Rep. Darrell Kick (Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security), Rep. Laura Lanese (Civil Justice), Rep. Craig Riedel (Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor), and Rep. Tom Patton (Transportation and Public Safety). Even often-marginalized Rep. John Becker was promoted to vice-chair of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations committee. Rep. Scott Lipps, meanwhile, was named chair of the House Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review.

= 9 Freshmen assignments: The Ohio House's two newest members, GOP Reps. Jim Hoops and Riordan McClain, got their committee assignments Thursday. Hoops, who previously served in the House

between 1998 and 2006, was named vice chair of the Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development committee; he also was appointed to the Agriculture and Rural Development, Energy and Natural Resources, and State and Local Government committees. McClain, meanwhile, also scored a House Ag seat, as well as appointments to the Ways and Means, Higher Education and Workforce Development, and Government Accountability and Oversight committees.

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9 **Under review:** State Sen. Bill Coley wants to put a freeze on final marijuana cultivation licenses while state auditors examine how the applications were reviewed and scored, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports. Concerns about the process have been raised since late last year, and recently, regulators admitted that an unintentional scoring error prevented one company from winning a license.

= 9

Upheaval: Jon Heavey, the Rocky River physician who wants to run as a Democrat for governor, says he will challenge the secretary of state's determination that he didn't have enough signatures to qualify for ballot, cleveland.com's Seth Richardson reports. Heavey called the system "rigged."

= 9

It's settled: The state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have resolved a dispute over the dredging of Cleveland Harbor and the Cuyahoga River, cleveland.com's Eric Heisig writes. The agreement settles a federal lawsuit and requires the Army Corps "to bear the cost of placing the sludge from the bottom of the river into containment dikes in 2016 and 2017," Heisig writes.

= 9 **NRA money:** In the wake of the mass shooting at a Florida high school, survivors have accused the NRA of using political donations to block gun control measures. Cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton looks at how much the NRA has spent supporting and opposing Ohio members of Congress.

= 9

Welcome back: The Columbus Dispatch's Randy Ludlow reveals that the Ohio Casino Control Commission rehired and promoted an employee after

he was convicted of dereliction of duty in his previous job as the state's deputy tax director. Rick Anthony's promotion to deputy executive director of the casino commission boosted his pay 23 percent, to \$100,006 a year.

= 9 **Powerful:** Corry Bliss, who ran Ohio U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's 2016 campaign and many others, was named one of GQ's "50 Most Powerful People in Trump's Washington." Bliss, as head of the Congressional Leadership Fund, "has a huge job: saving the GOP's House majority in 2018," GQ notes.

= A **Five Questions**

= 9 Connie Gadell-Newton is an attorney and social justice activist running for governor in the Green Party. She has lived in Columbus nearly her entire life and received an undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and a law degree from Penn State. She's been involved in food access and community gardens and the anti-rape and anti-violence event Take Back the Night, among other issues.

= 9

1. Are you campaigning around the state?

= 9 "Yes, I am. We've been going to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, meeting with local grassroots citizens' groups. We've been working on coalition building with issue groups, like anti-fracking groups? 6 since summer of last year."

= 9 *2. Are you fundraising or are you self-funding? How do you pay for travel?*

= 9

"My step-mom gave me an old Jeep, so I've been driving the Jeep around. We've raised some money for basic expenses, but it really is a campaign on a shoestring."

= 9 *3. The Green Party was an early supporter of legalized marijuana. Do you feel like Bill O'Neill has co-opted this issue?*

= 9

"It seems like Bill O'Neill is kind of a one-issue candidate. That is an important issue to us. But I'm definitely not a one-issue candidate. We also

care about the environment... We are advocating to end privatized prisons in Ohio... And universal health care is something we're advocating for."

= 9

4. *In addition to universal health care, your website says you want to ban assault rifles and advance other progressive ideas. How will you implement these, considering the legislature will likely remain in Republican control?*

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"I'm definitely willing to work with people to look for solutions that will work for everybody in our society... And I know that there are certain things where not everybody's going to agree, but I think we can look for areas of common ground. So we want to also have universal health care, which I think helps with some of the mental health issues that people talk about related to the gun problem."

= 9

5. *You said you enjoy vegetarian and vegan cuisine in Columbus. What restaurants do you recommend?*

= 9 "I live in Olde Towne East, which is just east of downtown Columbus. In my neighborhood there are a couple of really good restaurants. The Angry Baker -- they bake their own bread and they have vegan and vegetarian options. And Yellow Brick Pizza is an independently owned pizza restaurant, and they have a great menu of craft beer and they also have vegan options for pizza, so you can get vegan cheese."

= 9

What's Going On

= 9 **Friday 8 a.m. = 2 Bureau of Workers' Compensation board of directors meeting.** *Room 3, Level 2, William Green Building, 30 W. Spring St.*

= 9 **Friday 11 a.m. – Med marijuana lawsuit update:** Jimmy Gould, CEO of CannAscend Ohio, along with attorneys and others, will hold a press conference to discuss the latest with the marijuana cultivation license lawsuit against the state. *Columbus Athenaeum, Corinthian Room, 32 N. Fourth St.*

= 9 **Friday 11:40 a.m. – Welsh flag raising:** The Welsh Society of Central Ohio plans to raise the Welsh flag in a ceremony that includes singing the

national anthems of Wales and the United States. *West Plaza, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 Friday 1:30 p.m. – Attorney General Mike DeWine to make announcement about rape-kit testing. *Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, 1560 State Route 56 SW, London.*

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Friday 3 p.m. – Rich Cordray at Owens Community College: The Democratic gubernatorial candidate will tour the school and meet with administrators. *Owens Community College, Center for Emergency Preparedness, 30140 Tracy Road, Walbridge.*

= 9 Friday 4 p.m. – U.S. Sen. Rob Portman to visit Zanesville auto-parts store: The stop is part of the Cincinnati-area Republican's ongoing tour to promote the recently passed GOP tax-reform plan. *GKM Auto Parts, 32 8th St., Zanesville.*

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Saturday 10 a.m. to noon – Donuts with Rep. Dave Greenspan: The Westlake Republican plans to meet with constituents to field their general questions and comments. *Westlake Porter Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake.*

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Saturday Noon – Working People's Day of Action rally: Labor union members and supporters are set to hold a rally in Columbus (as well as other cities) ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments in a case over public-sector union fees. West Plaza, Ohio Statehouse (Event will move to the Statehouse Rotunda in case of bad weather).

= 9 Saturday 7 to 10 p.m. – Alpha Phi Red Dress gala: Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Alpha Phi Foundation for women's heart health research and awareness. *Atrium/Rotunda, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 Sunday 2:30 p.m. – Democratic statewide candidates town hall: Scheduled attendees include gubernatorial candidates Joe Schiavoni, Richard Cordray, Bill O'Neill, and Dennis Kucinich; secretary of state candidate Kathleen Clyde; state auditor candidate Zack Space; and Ohio Supreme Court candidates Michael Donnelly and Melody Stewart. *Union*

County Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 233 W. 6th St., Marysville.

= A **Birthdays**

= 9 Friday:

Rep. Ryan Smith

= 9

Saturday:

= 9 Quinn Beeson, Buckeye Institute economic research analyst

Wilson Shannon, Ohio's 14th and 16th governor (1802-1877)

= A **Straight From The Source**

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"Doping in curling. Really?! Russians are masters of cartoonish villainy.

#ThemRussians"

= 9-Ohio Rep. Mike Duffey, responding on Twitter to a New York Times story about a Russian curling athlete under investigation at the Winter Olympics for allegedly using a banned substance.

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***essential first read of the morning. Email us at
Capitolletter@cleveland.com.***

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From: The Buckeye Institute
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME

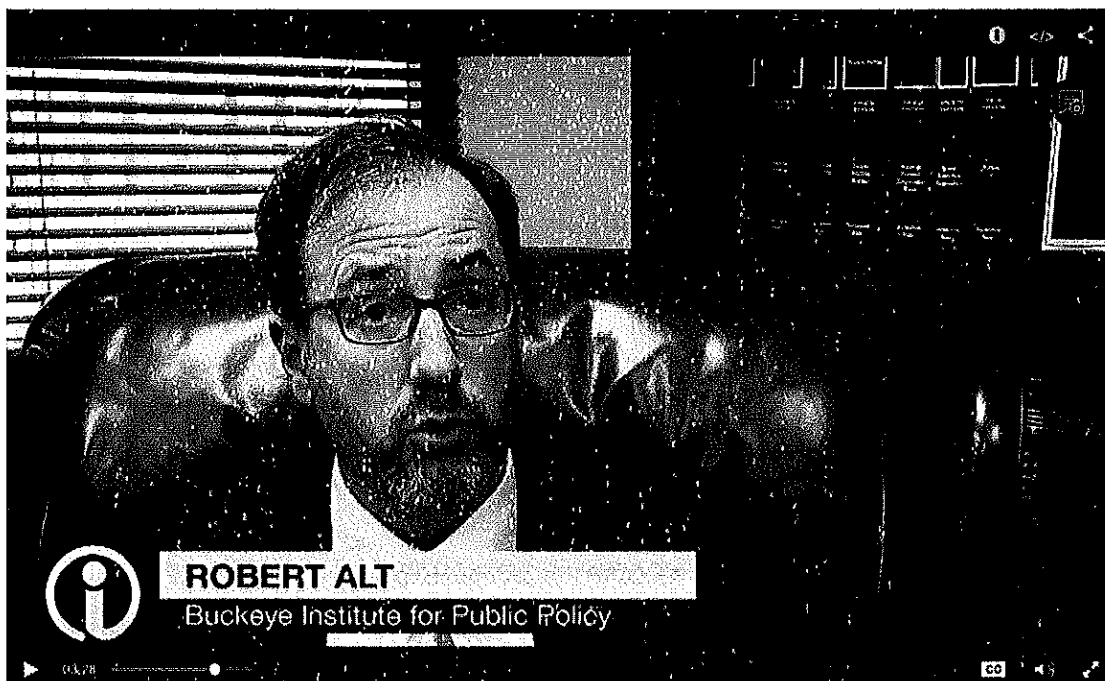
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The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO Robert Alt, talked to **IdeaStream's** Ashton Marra about *Janus v. AFSCME* and the impact it could have on protecting the First Amendment rights of Ohio's public employees.

In the interview, Alt said in regards to public employees being forced to pay agency fees, "You don't have a choice then on how it is that the unions use that money in terms of speech, what they advocate for. That's really the core of this case."

Read and listen to the radio piece at: <http://bit.ly/2EMIE8e>.

Watch the television piece at: <http://bit.ly/2CGH1XH> (Segment runs from :56-6:27).



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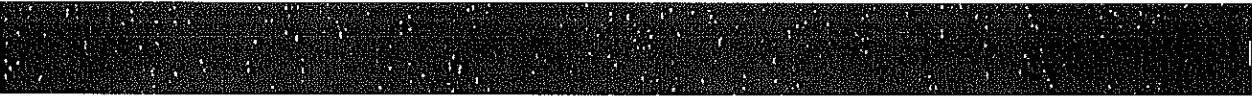
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2018

The Buckeye Institute's Robert Alt: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding the Working People's Day of Action rally in Columbus, Ohio.

"Today we witnessed the First Amendment in action. Individuals who support unions joined together at a rally to freely express their opinions. But what if instead of rallying and voicing their own opinions, they were forced to pay for the speech of those who oppose unions or else they would be fired? That would be unfair, not to mention violate the First Amendment. Mark Janus and public employees in many states including Ohio face exactly that kind of predicament.

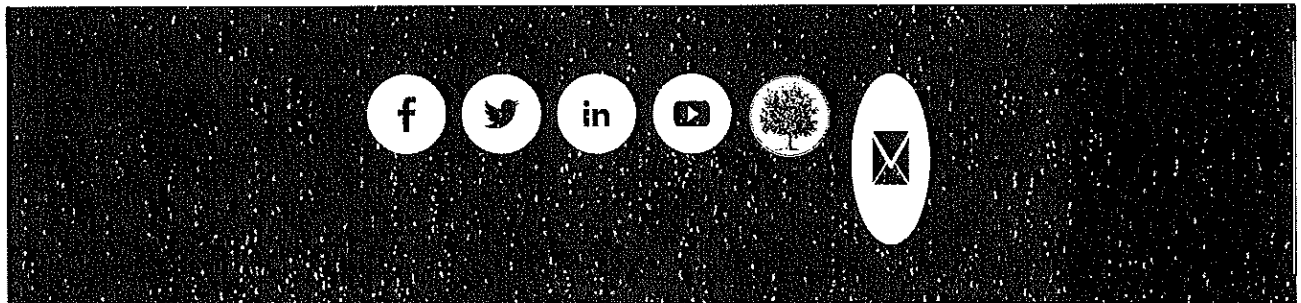
"On Monday, we will once again watch the robust protections of our constitutional system in action as Mr. Janus' case is heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. If Mr. Janus prevails, public employees will no longer be forced to pay for political speech with which they disagree, thus ending the violation of their First Amendment rights.

"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

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From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: New Senate bill would expand billing options for Ohio pharmacists

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Monday, Feb. 26, 2018

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Capitol Letter

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The lawmakers will discuss legislation they believe will expand access to affordable prescription drugs. *Harding Press Room, Ohio Statehouse.*

Senate session – 1:30 p.m.

House session – 1:30 p.m.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – AFP-Ohio panel discussion on K-12 education: Americans for Prosperity-Ohio Coalitions Director Ezra Escudero and the Heartland Institute's Lennie Jarratt are set to lead a discussion coinciding with National School Choice Week 2018. *Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Rep. Janine Boyd fundraiser: Sponsor levels for the Cleveland Heights Democrat range from \$350 to \$1,000. *Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave.*

Straight From The Source

"Spare us the sermon, Rich. You took Bill Lager's money in 2006 and money from #ECOT's COO in 2008. 'For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.' Matthew 7:2"

- Stephanie Dodd, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Schiavoni's running mate, responding to a tweet by Schiavoni's primary opponent Richard Cordray after the closure of the scandal-ridden Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow charter school. According to state campaign-finance records, ECOT founder Bill Lager donated \$500 to Cordray's campaign for state treasurer in September 2006; former ECOT COO Steven Sellers contributed \$100 to Cordray in October 2008.

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Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:40 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: RE: cap letter today (you're quoted...)

Thank you. This is truly an honor.

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:00 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: cap letter today (you're quoted...)

Carolyn Best

Director of Communications

Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger/Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office Phone: 614.644.1739

Cell Phone: 740.815.9635

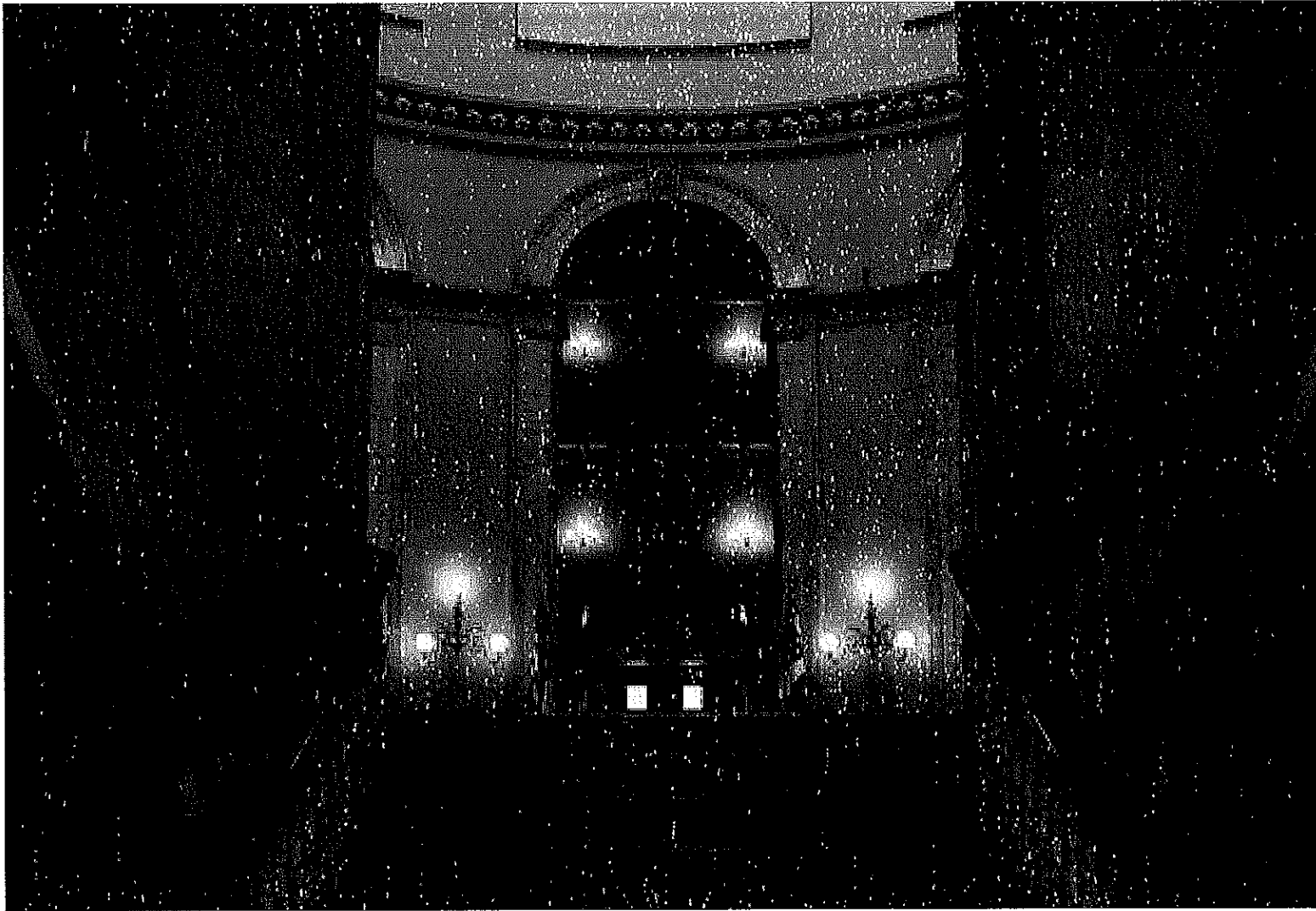
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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer



Rotunda Rumblings

Off the books: College students and faculty championed a bill during a Tuesday hearing that would exempt textbooks from state sales taxes. However, House Bill 337 would cost the state -- with a fiscal analysis showing an annual loss of \$21.2 million to the General Revenue Fund, \$800,000 to the Local Government and public library funds and \$5.4 million to counties and transit authorities.

College costs: Another bill attempts to tackle college affordability with a different tax benefit -- income tax deductions for tuition, fees, books,

supplies and any required equipment for college and vocational schools. There are no estimates yet on how much House Bill 186 would cost. Students generally support the idea, although Daniel Palmer, a student at Wright State, noted the bill wouldn't always directly benefit students, since many of their parents claim them as dependents on their tax returns.

The backdrop: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger has said college affordability will be a priority during his last year as leader of the Ohio House. While he hasn't yet formed positions on H.B. 337 and H.B. 186, he's talking to students and will likely be working on one or more bills in coming months. "It's not something he's putting on the backburner," said his spokesman, Brad Miller.

Loan ranger: A House committee on Tuesday took its first look at legislation designed to create more consumer protections for Ohioans with student loans. House Bill 432, a Democratic-sponsored bill with bipartisan support, would create a student-loan ombudsperson within the Ohio Department of Commerce. Student-loan servicers doing business in Ohio would also have to be licensed by the department. Rep. Kristin Boggs, the Columbus Democrat co-sponsoring the bill, told the House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee that in her past job as an assistant attorney general, she regularly got calls about problems regarding college-loan companies.

'Net gain: A proposal to create a \$2 million grant program to help local governments extend high-speed internet to local areas cleared the House Finance Committee on Tuesday. Prior to the 24-2 vote on House Bill 281, committee members approved a substitute bill that, among other things, allows challenges to municipalities' requests for broadband projects, gives local officials leeway to negotiate payment terms, and specifies that municipalities can bypass county approval for a project if they don't use any county money for it. The Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association support the bill.

That's heavy, Doc: New legislation in the Ohio House seeks to criminalize Marty McFly's preferred method of transportation. House Bill 475, from Democratic Rep. Thomas West of Canton, would make it illegal to skateboard while holding onto or being pulled by a vehicle. The bill is

named the "Dallas Swogger Act," after a teenage Canton skateboarder who died while performing such a maneuver.

Floor plan: Wednesday's Ohio House agenda includes votes on bills to narrow the definition of a "medical record" (House Bill 172), regulate low-speed electric bicycles (House Bill 250), and ensure that people with disabilities are not excluded from organ-transplant waiting lists (House Bill 332). The bike bill would put electric bikes into three different classes, based on the motor assist and top speed, and would require them to be labeled. A bike's top speed could not be modified without modifying the label. Faster bikes would be prohibited from using certain bike paths. Also up for a vote: Senate Concurrent Resolution 8, which urges the United States Missile Defense Agency to select Ravenna, Ohio, for a future East Coast Missile Defense system.

Skindell passed over by Cuyahoga Dems: Term-limited state Sen. Mike Skindell's campaign to take over (also term-limited) Rep. Nickie Antonio's House District 13 seat hit a bump last Saturday when the Cuyahoga County Democrats endorsed his primary rival, Lakewood City Councilman Tom Bullock. Bullock told Capitol Letter that the party's backing is "a big step and a big honor."

Speaking of Northeast Ohio liberals... Democratic ex-state Rep. Mike Foley has opted not to run for the open seat in Ohio House District 14 (where current Rep. Marty Sweeney is running for state Senate). Steve Holecko, the political director for the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus who unsuccessfully ran for the seat in 2014, is looking to take Foley's place – he tells Capitol Letter he's "seriously considering" a run. Other Democrats who have pulled petitions include Summit County assistant prosecutor Rick Raley and Brook Park City Councilman Carl Burgio. The Cuyahoga County Democratic Party declined to endorse anyone in the primary.

Fifth Democrat enters OH-16 race: Grant Goodrich announced his candidacy Tuesday for Ohio's 16th congressional district, being vacated by Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci. Goodrich, who lives on Cleveland's West Side, is a Marine Corps veteran, director of the Great Lakes Energy Institute at Case Western Reserve University, and former interim CEO of

Team NEO (Northeast Ohio's JobsOhio partner).

Stories We're Talking About

The trend continues... Ohio is predicted to lose another congressional seat after the 2020 census. Cleveland.com's Rich Exner points out the importance of redrawing congressional districts in the state as the people responsible will probably have to boil 16 districts down to 15 in 2021.

Look who's back: Ohio Republicans are taking a different route to introducing "right to work" language that critics say would unnecessarily weaken unions in Ohio, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports. GOP Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel want to see six constitutional amendments on the November 2020 ballot as the turnout during presidential election years is higher.

Presidential persuasion: Republican Rep. Jim Renacci said he "had no interest" in running for Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown's seat, but chose to do so after being persuaded by President Trump's senior staff, reports The Vindicator's David Skolnick. Although Renacci, who had been running for governor before the switch, didn't detail his conditions to run, he did mention that both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence can be expected in Ohio "a lot over the next eight, nine months" campaigning for him.

Vet away: Gubernatorial candidate and Ohio Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill asked the Ohio Democratic Party to vet his background after paying \$4,361 in past-due state income taxes, the Columbus Dispatch's Randy Ludlow writes. To participate in the Democratic gubernatorial debates, the party requires candidates to undergo a background check. O'Neill is due to step down from the court this week.

A boost from Blackwell: Republican Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's bid for governor picked up support from former Ohio secretary of state and Cincinnati mayor Ken Blackwell, reports the Associated Press. Blackwell calls Taylor and her running mate, Nathan Estruth, part of a "new generation of strong conservative leaders."

Five Questions

Rep. Adam Miller, a Columbus-area Democrat, was born on the hilltop on the west side of Columbus, and represents a large swath of the west side. He's an attorney at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister and is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps who was recently selected to become a full colonel. He lives in Marble Cliff with his wife and son.

1. What are your legislative priorities this year?

"The No. 1 priority is helping my district defeat the urban blight and the manifestation of drug and illicit criminal activity that we have. We have unfortunately the designation of being among one of the highest areas of Ohio for opioid overdoses, and we have a site along one of our major thoroughfares that has possibly the greatest number of human trafficking arrests in Central Ohio."

2. You served on the Grandview Heights City School Board. Describe that experience.

"I loved being a school board member because it capped like 30 years of working in education in one capacity or another -- from volunteer coach to a youth-to-youth drug prevention adviser to teaching...I love working with students."

3. You're a Democrat and serve in the Army Reserve, yet some people in the military don't feel the Democratic Party supports the military or veterans. Do you share that view?

"Not at all. I see service as one of the most important unifying factors among the general public and here in the Statehouse. It's really given me a door to work across party lines."

4. Last week, Rich Cordray was a special guest at your birthday/reelection kickoff fundraiser. Do you support him for governor?

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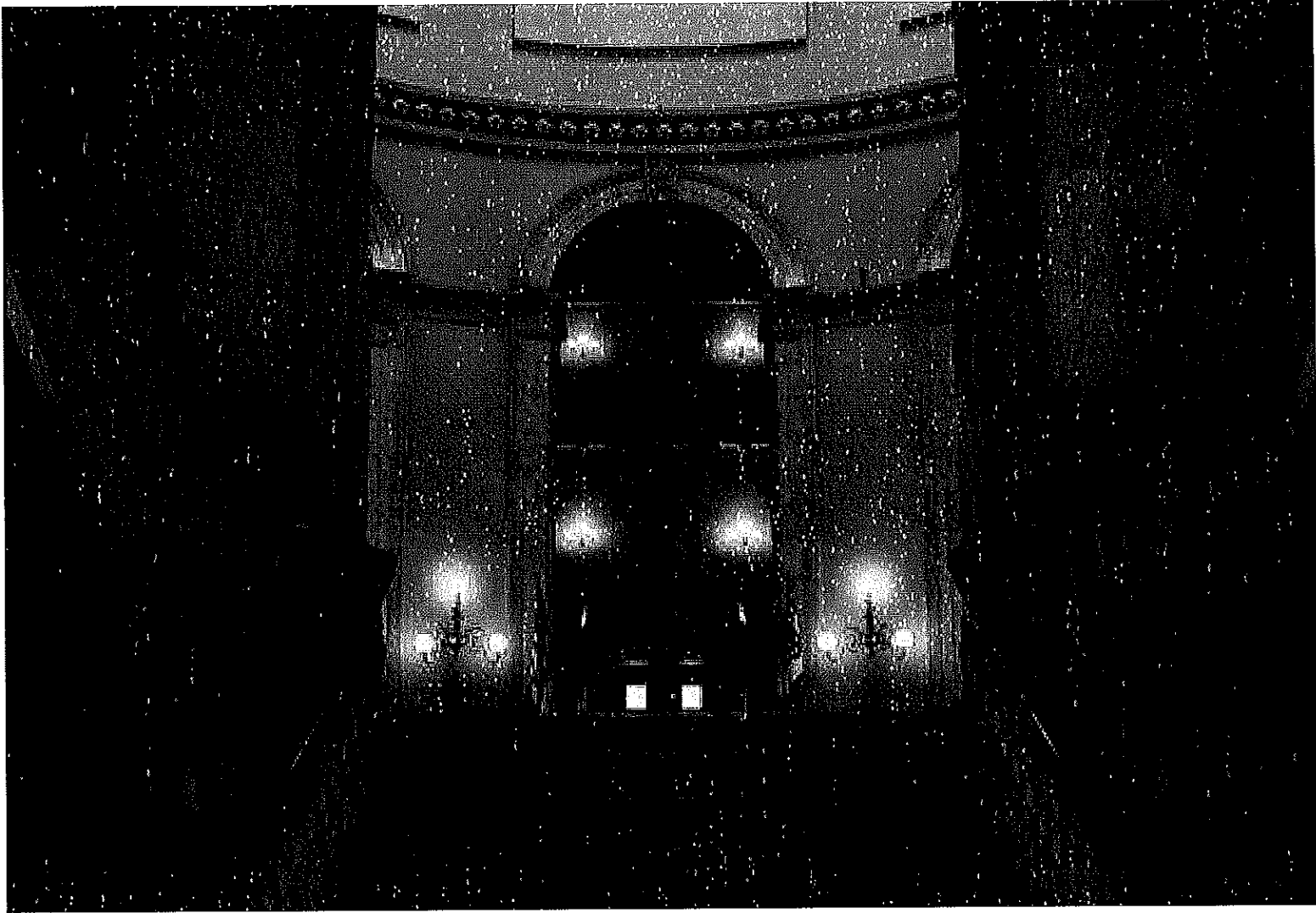
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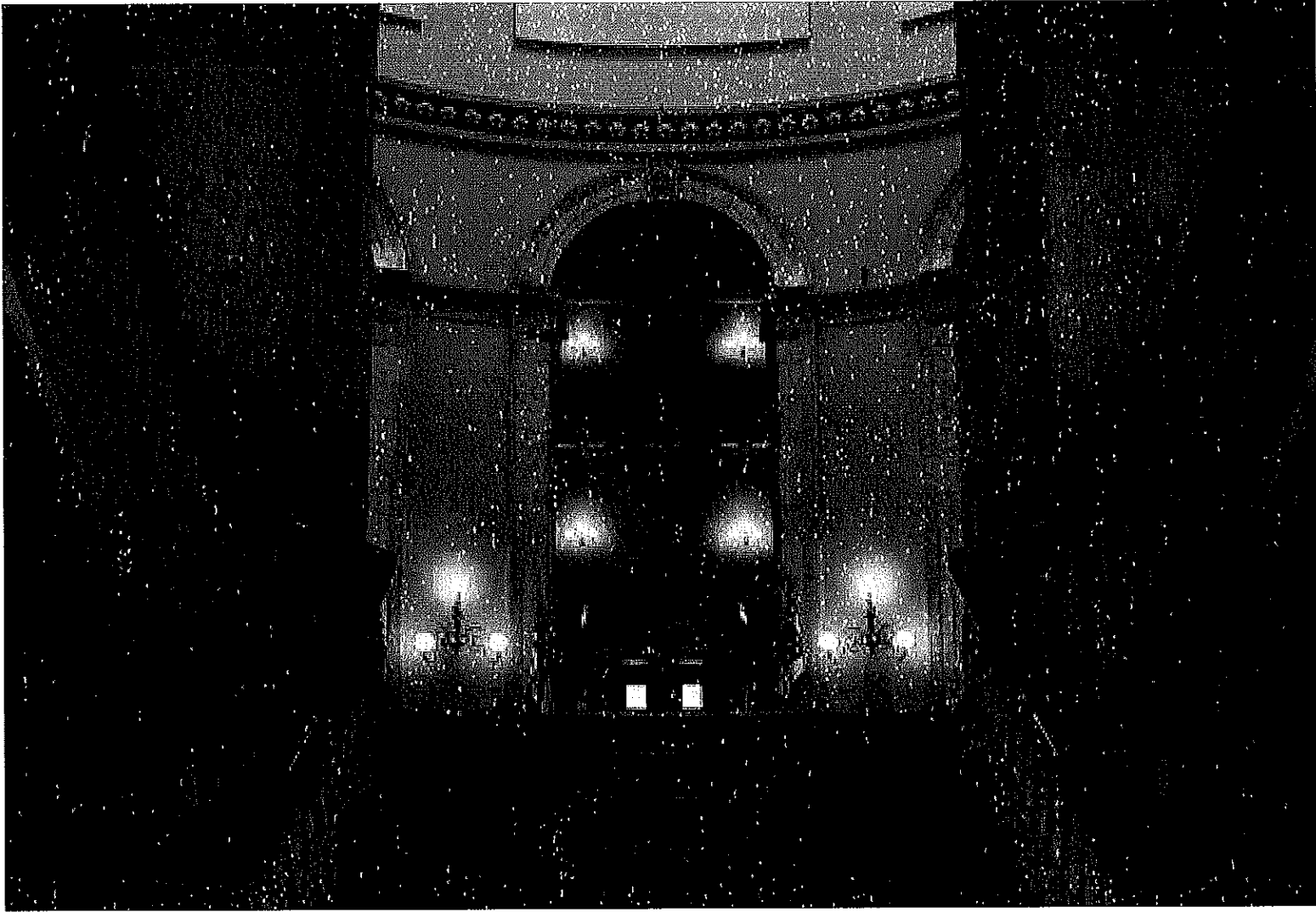
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Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 11:05 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Unveils Outdoor Ads Highlighting the Need for Worker Voting Rights

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

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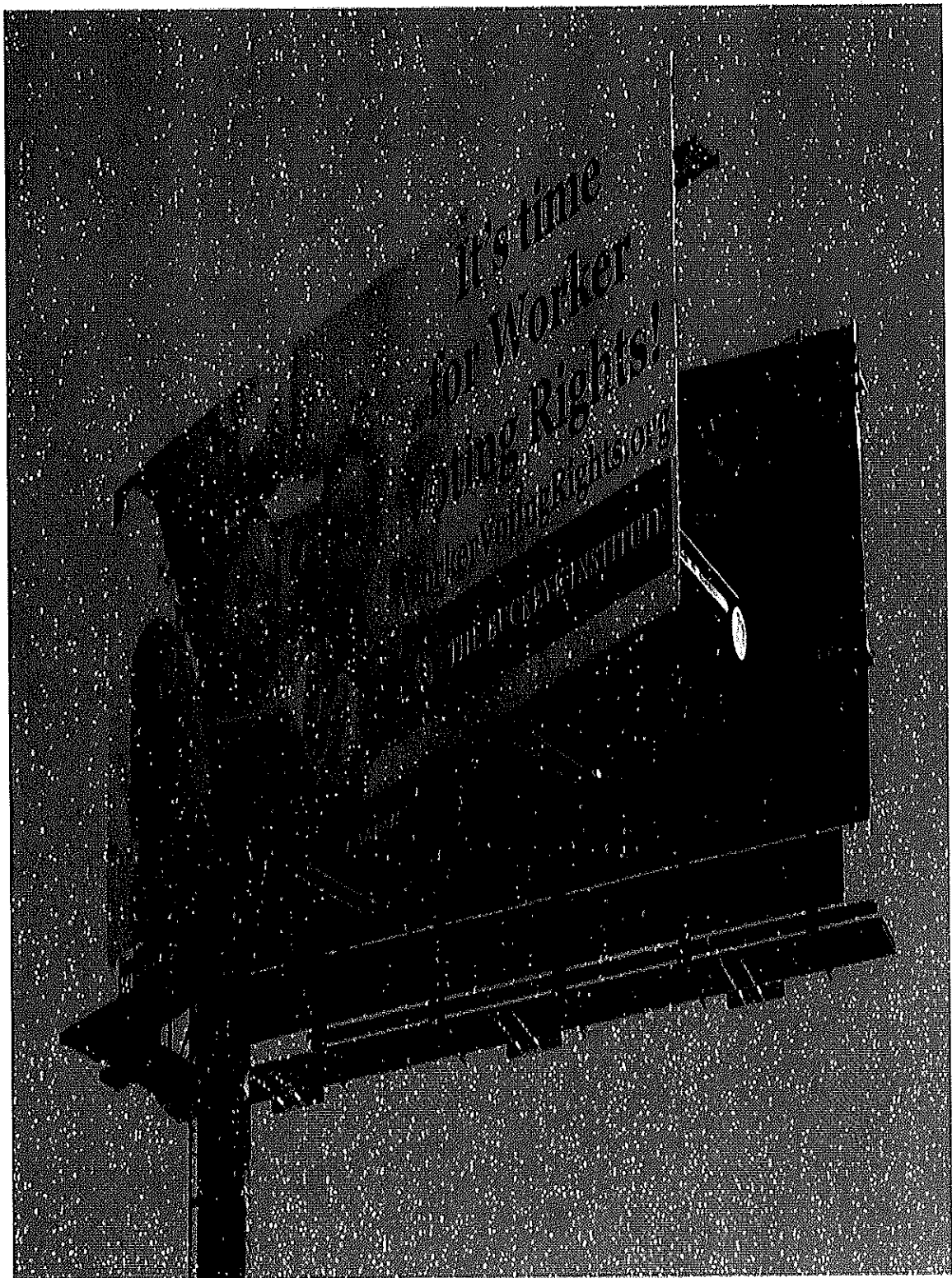
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Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute recently unveiled outdoor advertisements to raise awareness of the need for **worker voting rights** for Ohio's public employees. Buckeye's worker voting rights campaign highlights the importance of giving public-sector employees a vote in choosing the union that represents them at the bargaining table, something **94 percent of union members** have never had the opportunity to do.

"Every morning, hardworking men and women go to work on our behalf—they teach our children, take care of the sick and elderly, repair our roads, and issue our drivers licenses. While these people go to work for us, far too few of them have ever had the opportunity to

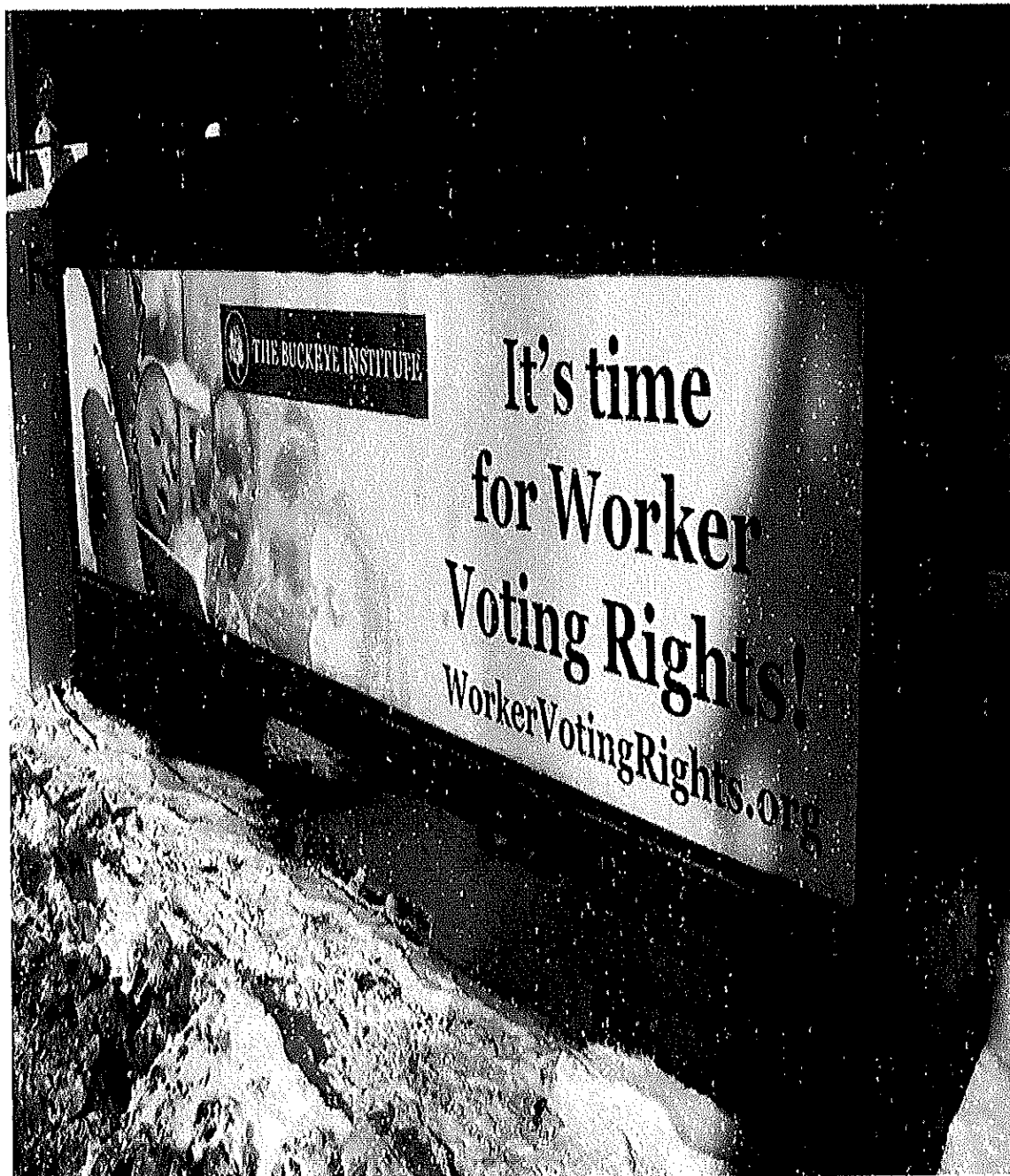
vote for the unions to which they must pay dues or fees," said **Robert Alt**, president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute. "Fortunately, there is a solution-worker voting rights. Giving public employees a regular vote in choosing the union that represents them will ensure unions are accountable to the workers they serve and will restore democracy and fairness to the system."

Buckeye's outdoor advertisements are located in Columbus, Ohio and include a billboard on State Route 315 South between the Ackerman Road and Lane Avenue exits, and two newspaper rack advertisements. One at the corner of Third and East Broad streets and another at the corner of High and State streets.

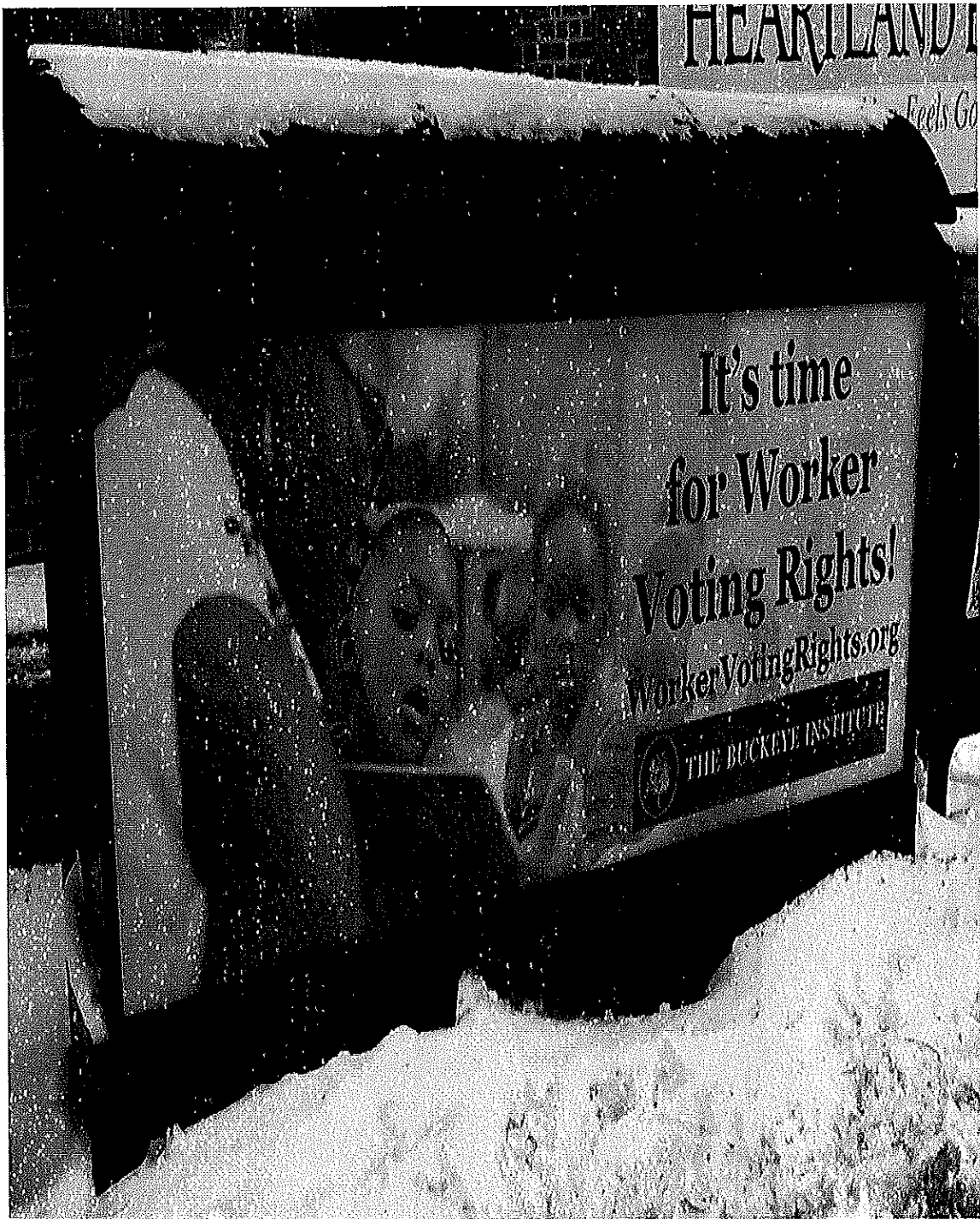


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Newspaper rack sign at the corner of Third and East Broad streets.



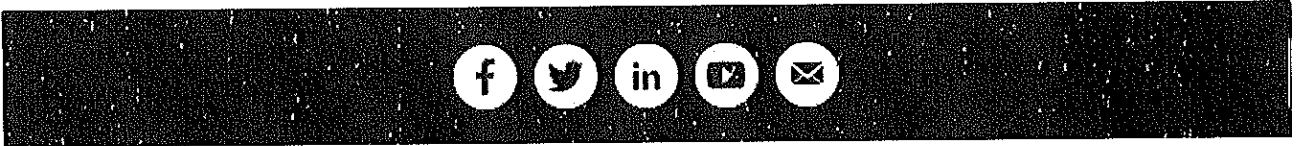
Newspaper rack sign at the corner of State and High streets.

= A

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/25/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/25/2018



OHIO PART OF STUDY TO REDUCE CHILD WELFARE WORKERS TURNOVER

Officials say Ohio is joining a national research project to reduce turnover among caseworkers in the child welfare field.



KASICH DISPUTES TAYLOR'S ASSERTION THEY HAVEN'T TALKED IN A YEAR

The office of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and her own appointment calendar, dispute Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's assertion that she has not talked to the governor in more than a year.

OHIO LAWMAKERS GOING AFTER PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

When Ohioans go to pharmacists for their prescriptions, they generally assume they'll be told the truth about the costs of their medicines.

NO REDISTRICTING VOTE WITHOUT CITIZENS COALITION SUPPORT, SENATE PRESIDENT SAYS

Unless a citizens coalition agrees with a legislative plan to revamp Ohio's congressional redistricting process, Senate President Larry Obhof said the Senate won't vote on the measure.

CLINTONVILLE ARCHITECT BECOMES LATEST TO RUN FOR TIBERI'S OLD SEAT

Yet another Republican has entered the race to replace Rep. Pat Tiberi.

CORDRAY WANTS TO BRING FIGHT FOR CONSUMERS TO OHIO

Richard Cordray just finished a five-year stint running the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but on Wednesday he said he is starting his fight for consumers in Ohio.

STATE LAWMAKERS VOTE TO REGULATE 'E-BIKES'

Ohio is one of just 20 states that doesn't regulate electric bicycles, but that might be changing with new legislation.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

NEW BILL CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN DRUG PRICES

A consumer protection bill introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives this week aims to increase transparency in prescription drug pricing.

RIDING A SKATEBOARD WHILE HOLDING A CAR COULD BECOME ILLEGAL IN OHIO

Grabbing the bumper or side of a moving car and hitching a ride while on a skateboard is not specifically illegal in Ohio — something some state lawmakers want to change.

TOOL WILL ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW THE MONEY IN OHIO POLITICS

If you want to know what's going on in politics, the old adage is: follow the money.

THE PLAIN DEALER

ECOT STUDENTS RUSHING TO OTHER E-SCHOOLS BUT TRICKLING BACK TO DISTRICTS

Students from the just-closed ECOT online charter school have started to land in school districts and other charters, but the numbers remain low and it's too early to tell how well the process is working.

OHIO PAC SUPPORTING OHIO WOMEN CANDIDATES RAISES \$750,000

The Matriots, a statewide PAC supporting female candidates, started last year when a small group of Columbus-area neighbors, friends and acquaintances stood together at the Women's March on Washington and felt something big.

TALK IT OUT: SHOULD OHIO BECOME A 'RIGHT TO WORK' STATE?

Republican state Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel have proposed a package of six constitutional amendments targeting how unions operate and are funded in Ohio.

THE BLADE One of America's Great Newspapers

VOTE DELAYED ON GOP REMAP PLAN

Senate Republicans on Wednesday delayed a vote on changes to the inherently political process by which Ohio redraws congressional districts.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, January 25

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NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court sides with FirstEnergy in customer refund ruling (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/25/2018)

GOP gov race: No one wants Kasich's endorsement (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

 $\equiv A$

In Ohio, lives altered a year into Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

Ohio PAC supporting Ohio women candidates raises \$750,000 (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Powerful opioids are easily sold through the Internet and shipped in the mail, investigation finds (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Campaign cash: Who got how much from ECOT (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Cordray wants to bring fight for consumers to Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Kasich disputes Taylor's assertion they haven't talked in a year (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

No redistricting vote without citizens coalition support, Senate president says (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

State lawmakers vote to regulate "e-bikes" (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio's tobacco prevention efforts get mostly Fs (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Riding a skateboard while holding a car could become illegal in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Tool will allow the public to follow the money in Ohio politics (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

High court: State's FirstEnergy refund order was improper (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

Vote delayed on GOP remap plan (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: CHIP breaks free from D.C. gridlock (Canton Repository, 1/25/2018)

Editorial: Ohioans want real redistricting reform (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

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Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Becker & Riedel Statewide Joint Editorial
Attachments: RTW Dispatch Guest Column Final draft.docx

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Guest Column from State Representatives John Becker and Craig Riedel

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Subject: RE: Becker & Riedel Statewide Joint Editorial

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Regards,

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Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: The Buckeye Institute [<mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org>]
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2018 7:32 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Ohio is Literally Moving in the Wrong Direction! By Greg R. Lawson

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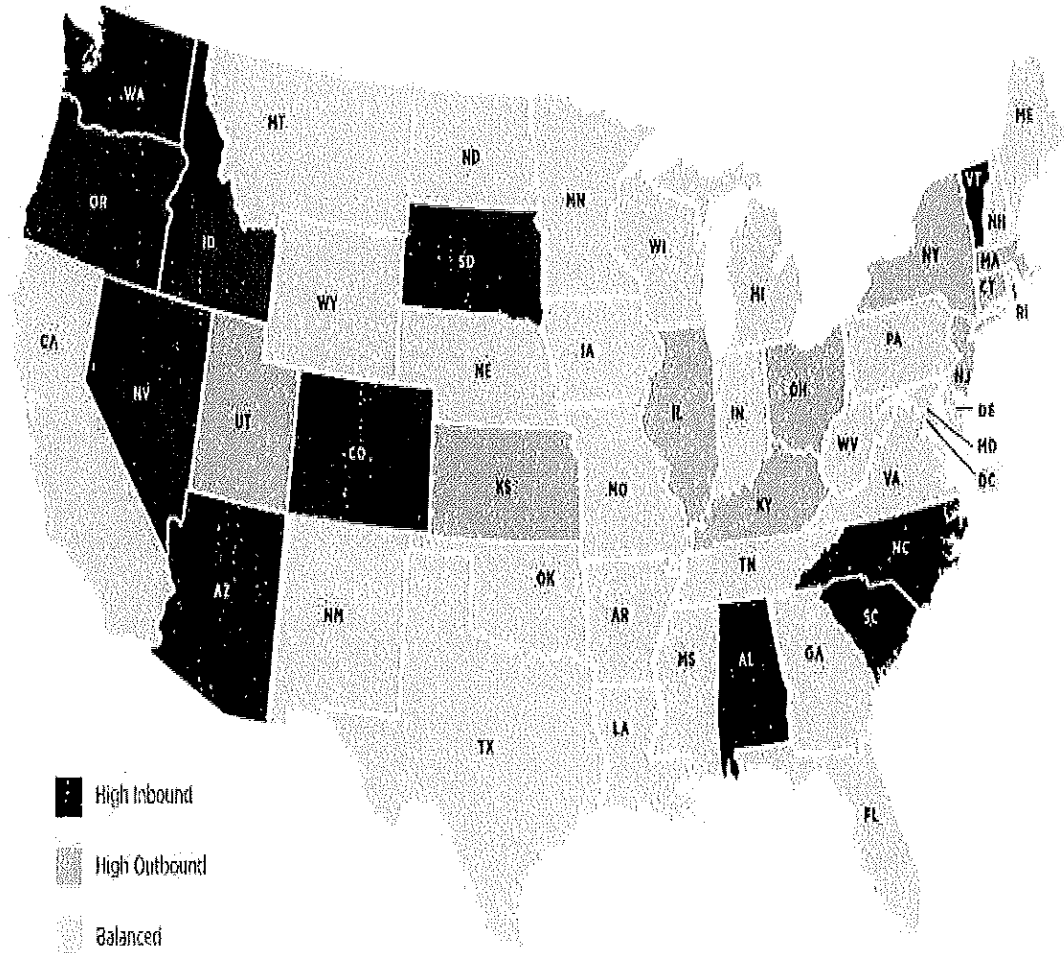
Ohio is Literally Moving in the Wrong Direction!

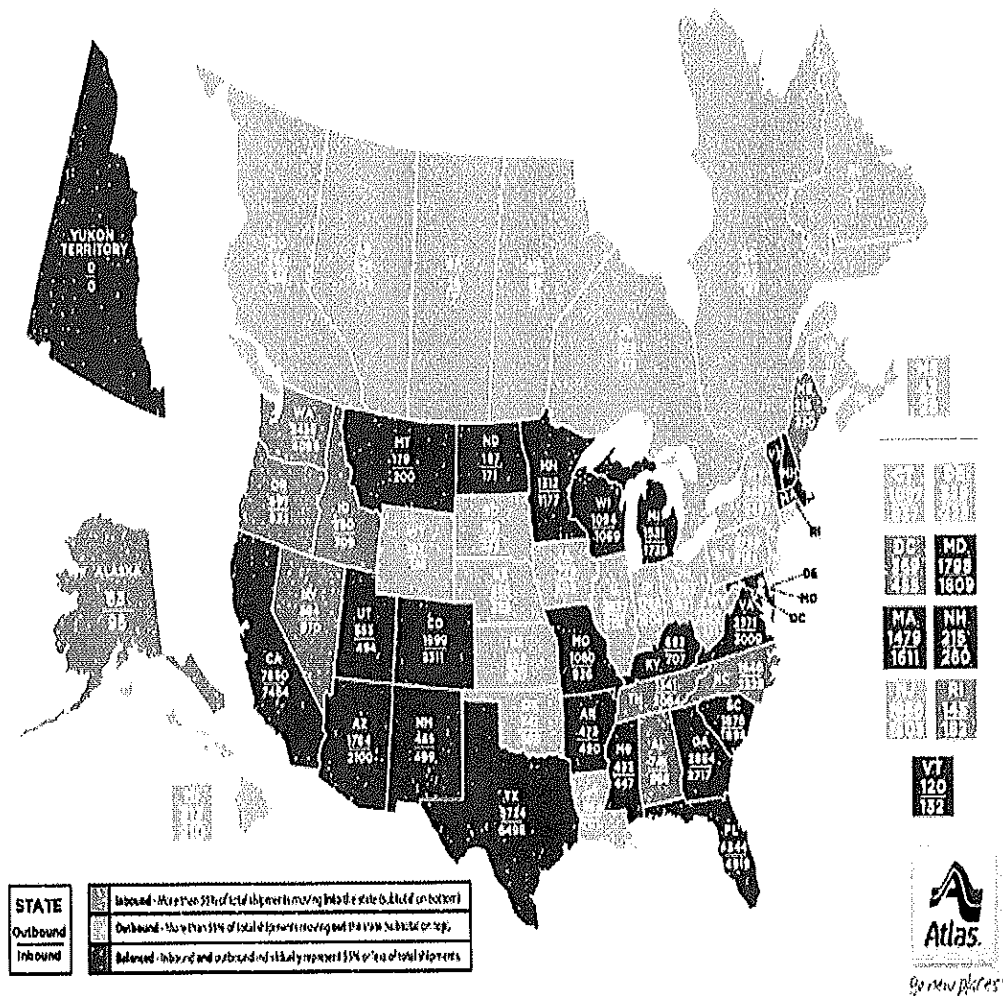
By Greg R. Lawson
January 8, 2018

According to United Van Lines **2017 National Movers Study**, Ohio ranked number 7 nationally for the most out of state moves. And an **Atlas** report shows that for the 10th consecutive year more people are moving out of Ohio than into Ohio.

Ohio is literally moving in the wrong direction!

United Van Lines 2017 Movers Study





While we have come to expect this reality, it is a trend Ohio should not just accept and illustrates why Ohio needs better policies that will grow the economy and increase jobs.

According to economist and UCLA professor Michael Stoll,

"This year's data reflects longer-term trends of movement to the western and southern states, especially to those where housing costs are relatively lower, climates are more temperate, and **job growth has been at or above the national average**, among other factors."

This should not be surprising. Ohio's job growth has typically been below the national average in both good and bad times for much of the past half century. While the state has certainly climbed out of the deep job loss pit it fell into during the Great Recession, it still has yet to fully recover.

While Ohio's policymakers have made commendable efforts to improve the job climate through tax and regulatory reform, there is much work that remains, and there are multiple areas where policymakers should focus their attention in an effort to improve Ohio business climate.

Embracing reforms in each of these areas will create a better environment for job growth.

First, Ohio remains a state without full worker freedom unlike **4 of our 5 neighbors** (Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia).

Second, Ohio remains home to one of the most complicated **local government structures** of any state while having the single worst local tax in America -- **the municipal income tax**. These complexities make it difficult for smaller businesses to grow, the kind of growth that leads to more jobs for Ohioans.

Finally, Ohio needs to reduce the ridiculous burden of over the top **occupational licensing** while making a commitment to stop adding additional licenses to new jobs. Our recent report, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, highlights the dire impact such licensing has lower-income and minority Ohioans as well as on the ability of workers, in general, to move for new job opportunities.

With reforms in these three key areas, we can grow our economy, increase job creation, and turn the moving vans around and bring people back to Ohio.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

*January 25, 2018
Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134*

Guest Column from State Representatives

John Becker and Craig S. Riedel

Right-to-Work Right Choice for Ohio, but Let Voters Decide

Over the years, 28 states across the U.S. (including 4 of our 5 neighboring states) have enacted right-to-work laws making this a highly debated issue for Ohio. At its very core, right-to-work promotes the individual freedom of a person to choose whether they want to belong to a union or not. Currently, Ohio law allows the collective bargaining unit to force an employee to pay 'fair share fees' if they do not join the union. Not only does this make Ohio less competitive regarding job and wage growth, especially with our neighboring states, but Ohioans are forced to give away their own hard-earned money to an entity that they may not support or want representing them.

That is why we have sponsored House Joint Resolutions 7 through 12, six resolutions that if approved by the General Assembly, would appear as constitutional amendments on Ohio's general election ballot in November 2020. We have heard from many sides about why right-to-work is right for Ohio or not, and despite many efforts to pass legislation on this issue, it still remains highly contentious.

Because of this, we have decided to let the people of Ohio decide whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state or not. By approving these resolutions, Ohioans will get to vote directly on six different variations of right-to-work law. The six constitutional amendments would be summarized as thus:

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Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:27 PM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: RE: Becker & Riedel Statewide Joint Editorial

Hi Libby,

I am actually not sure who Brad works with at the Dispatch. You can call and ask him how the process with them works however I'm not sure a Sunday publication would be possible.

Thanks!

-Carolyn

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77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: The Buckeye Institute [<mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org>]
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2018 7:32 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Ohio is Literally Moving in the Wrong Direction! By Greg R. Lawson

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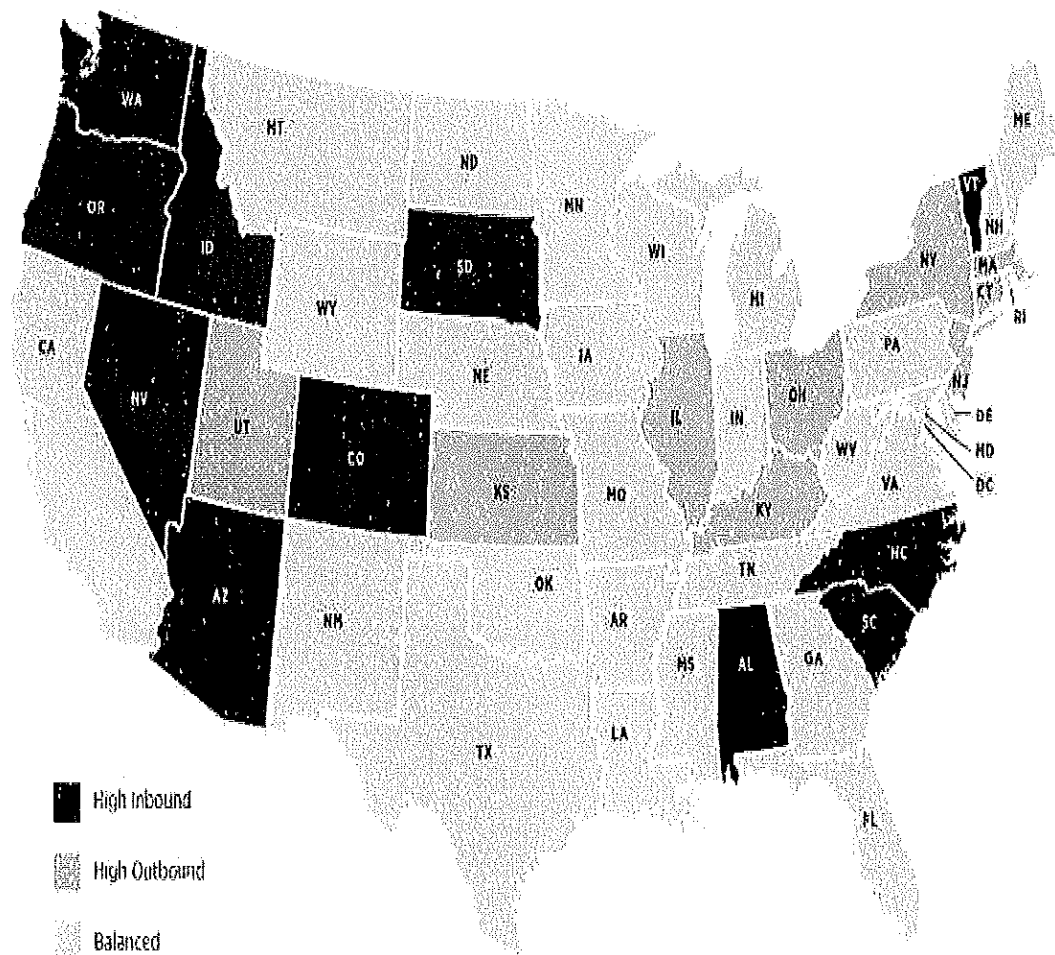
Ohio is Literally Moving in the Wrong Direction!

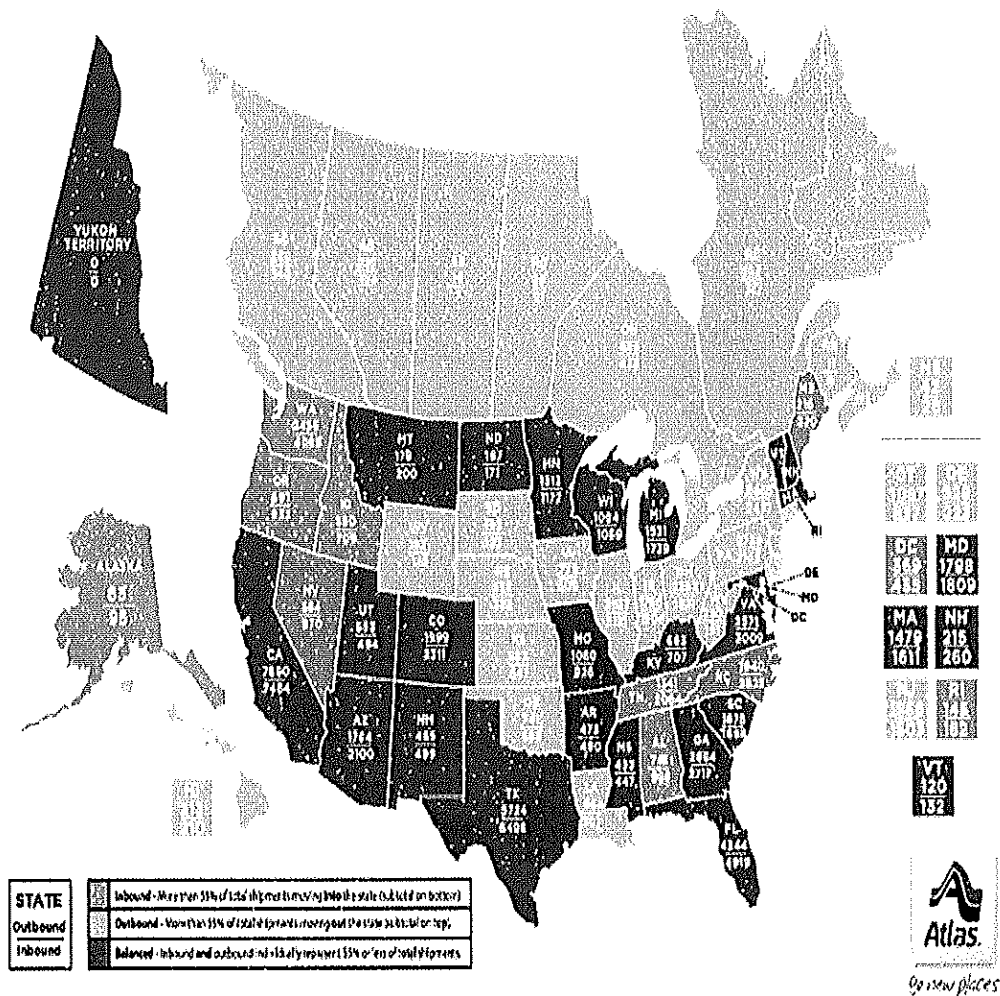
By Greg R. Lawson
January 8, 2018

According to United Van Lines **2017 National Movers Study**, Ohio ranked number 7 nationally for the most out of state moves. And an **Atlas** report shows that for the 10th consecutive year more people are moving out of Ohio than into Ohio.

Ohio is literally moving in the wrong direction!

United Van Lines 2017 Movers Study





While we have come to expect this reality, it is a trend Ohio should not just accept and illustrates why Ohio needs better policies that will grow the economy and increase jobs.

According to economist and UCLA professor Michael Stoll,

"This year's data reflects longer-term trends of movement to the western and southern states, especially to those where housing costs are relatively lower, climates are more temperate, and **job growth has been at or above the national average**, among other factors."

This should not be surprising. Ohio's job growth has typically been below the national average in both good and bad times for much of the past half century. While the state has certainly climbed out of the deep job loss pit it fell into during the Great Recession, it still has yet to fully recover.

While Ohio's policymakers have made commendable efforts to improve the job climate through tax and regulatory reform, there is much work that remains, and there are multiple areas where policymakers should focus their attention in an effort to improve Ohio business climate.

Embracing reforms in each of these areas will create a better environment for job growth.

First, Ohio remains a state without full worker freedom unlike **4 of our 5 neighbors** (Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia).

Second, Ohio remains home to one of the most complicated **local government structures** of any state while having the single worst local tax in America -- **the municipal income tax**. These complexities make it difficult for smaller businesses to grow, the kind of growth that leads to more jobs for Ohioans.

Finally, Ohio needs to reduce the ridiculous burden of over the top **occupational licensing** while making a commitment to stop adding additional licenses to new jobs. Our recent report, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, highlights the dire impact such licensing has lower-income and minority Ohioans as well as on the ability of workers, in general, to move for new job opportunities.

With reforms in these three key areas, we can grow our economy, increase job creation, and turn the moving vans around and bring people back to Ohio.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support

from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:38 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Miller, Brad; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Crock, Sarah; Michalowski, Joe; Basie, Margaret
Subject: COLUMN ALERT - Becker/Riedel Right-to-Work (sending to Dispatch at 5:00)

*January 26, 2018
Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134*

**Guest Column from State Representatives
John Becker and Craig S. Riedel
Right-to-Work Right Choice for Ohio, but Let Voters Decide**

Over the years, 28 states across the U.S. (including 4 of our 5 neighboring states) have enacted right-to-work laws making this a highly debated issue for Ohio. At its very core, right-to-work promotes the individual freedom of a person to choose whether they want to belong to a union or not. Currently, Ohio law allows the collective bargaining unit to force an employee to pay 'fair share fees' if they do not join the union. Not only does this make Ohio less competitive regarding job and wage growth, especially with our neighboring states, but Ohioans are forced to give away their own hard-earned money to an entity that they may not support or want representing them.

That is why we have sponsored House Joint Resolutions 7 through 12, six resolutions that if approved by the General Assembly, would appear as constitutional amendments on Ohio's general election ballot in November 2020. We have heard from many sides about why right-to-work is right for Ohio or not, and despite many efforts to pass legislation on this issue, it still remains highly contentious.

Because of this, we have decided to let the people of Ohio decide whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state or not. By approving these resolutions, Ohioans will get to vote directly on six different variations of right-to-work law. The six constitutional amendments would be summarized as thus:

- **Private-sector right-to-work:** No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- **Public-sector right-to-work:** Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.

- **Public-sector prevailing wage:** Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- **Public-sector paycheck protection:** Prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
- **Public-sector project labor agreements:** Prohibits state and local government entities from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered.
- **Public-sector union recertification:** Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units.

These six amendments cover every aspect of the right-to-work issue, allowing Ohioans to approve one or all of them. At the end of the day, we firmly believe this is the best course of action for Ohio. Right-to-work will tell the world that Ohio is open for business—increasing competition and improving our economic environment—while also protecting workers' rights.

From:

Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:54 PM

To: Lenzo, Mike

Subject: FW: COLUMN ALERT - Becker/Riedel Right-to-Work (sending to Dispatch at 5:00)

Can you review for any inaccuracies?

From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:38 PM

To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Crock, Sarah <Sarah.Crock@ohiohouse.gov>; Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: COLUMN ALERT - Becker/Riedel Right-to-Work (sending to Dispatch at 5:00)

January 26, 2018

*Contact: Joe Michalowski
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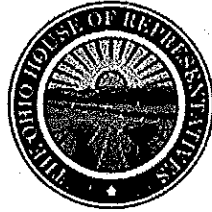
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From: Miller, Brad

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 12:19 PM

To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Crock, Sarah

Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 4)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

1/22/18 – 1/28/18

Farm and Dairy: Ohio Cattlemen's Association honors family farms

Ohio Rep. Brian Hill received the association's Industry Service Award. Hill, a longtime association member, raises beef cattle on his family farm in Muskingum County, and is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives, after serving as a county commissioner for more than six years. ... "It's easy to go to Columbus to fight on your behalf," Hill told the cattlemen Saturday night.

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"Action is needed to address the rising prescription drug prices to protect Ohio consumers," said state Rep. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, one of the sponsors of House Bill 479. "Prescription drug pricing in its supply chain is complex and broke and needs to be scrutinized."

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"Riordan McClain's experience in the private sector and financial management will surely prove to be a valuable asset to our caucus," said Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville). ... "I accept this appointment and will be honored to serve Ohio's 87th House District as state representative. I am appreciative of all the support that I've received through this process and look to carry that forward into a successful term representing our shared values," said McClain.

Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Business growth affirms healthy economy

The eighth consecutive year the state has experienced a record number of filings, new businesses have grown more than 46 percent since 2010. This continued progress is a sure sign of economic health — when individuals are thriving and feel comfortable, they are able to invest in establishing their own business.

Portsmouth Daily Times: Rep. Johnson honors 'Burg with state resolution

Ohio State Representative Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) honored the Wheelersburg Pirates' football program for its state championship run back in the fall.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:03 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Buckeye's Greg Lawson: Past Time to End Ohio's Byzantine Licensing Requirements

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

= A

Buckeye's Greg Lawson: Past Time to End Ohio's Byzantine Licensing Requirements

Columbus, OH -- Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement on the need for occupational licensing reform in Ohio. The statement was issued as the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee heard testimony on House Bill 289.

"Every license requirement raises a red-tape hurdle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, serving a customer, or opening a business.

Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

"This policy proposal starts an important conversation about how to rein in the red tape. Requiring policymakers to use the least restrictive regulation when it finds it necessary to displace competition is wise policy. And establishing a process that empowers legislative panels to weed through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards and uproot bureaucratic thistles will allow Ohioans to benefit from the fruits of their labor.

"Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living, and it is past time to end Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

###

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:14 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 4)

The right to work article is a bit negative but up to you.

<http://www.mytownneo.com/news/20180125/udson-boys-cross-country-team-recognized-by-roegner-larose>

<http://www.the-review.com/news/20180124/state-rep-christina-hagan-shows-support-for-emergency-personnel>

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 12:19 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Crock, Sarah <Sarah.Crock@ohiohouse.gov>
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OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

1/22/18 – 1/28/18

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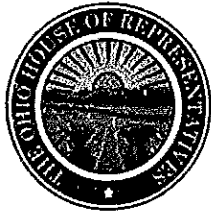
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From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:26 PM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 1/22/18 – 1/28/18



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

1/22/18 – 1/28/18

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Alliance Review: State Rep. Christina Hagan shows support for emergency personnel

"I am honored to discuss legislative matters impacting our community leaders and safety services, and to work toward solutions with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association," said Hagan. "I'm thankful for the daily sacrifices of all our Ohio firefighters and first responders."

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My Town NEO: Hudson boys cross country team recognized by Roegner, LaRose

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to win a state title," Roegner said. "Our Hudson Boys Cross Country Team won the Division I State Championship through steadfast dedication. With an average 3.99 GPA, they are incredible student athletes and have earned the admiration of the state of Ohio."

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: As Capital Budget Season Begins, Buckeye's Newest Report Outlines Principles to Guide Government Spending

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2018

As Capital Budget Season Begins, Buckeye's Newest Report Outlines Principles to Guide Government Spending

Recommends Using Capital Budget on Physical and Democratic Infrastructure Needs

Columbus, OH -- As the Ohio General Assembly prepares to consider the 2018 capital budget, **The Buckeye Institute** released its most recent report, ***Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans***. The report outlines three principles policymakers should use in spending taxpayer dollars and recommends using the 2018 capital budget to strengthen Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"As the 2018 capital budget process begins, it is important for policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government,"

said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and co-author of the report. "By following these principles, Ohio policymakers will ensure they are wisely spending taxpayer dollars and are putting the state on the road to growth and prosperity."

In its report, Buckeye outlines three principles that should guide government spending:

- **Constrain the Growth of State Government** -- Large governments inhibit economic growth and prosperity and Ohio should look for ways to decrease the size of government, rather than giving it more control.
- **Eliminate Corporate and Special Interest Welfare** -- The government should not use taxpayer dollars to subsidize companies or special interests. Crony capitalism does not drive economic growth, nor is it a responsible use of taxpayer dollars.
- **Focus Spending on the Core Functions of State Government** -- Non-essential spending needs to be curtailed. Government spending limits the ability of policymakers to embrace free-market reforms that will benefit the economic growth and prosperity of Ohio.

The report's authors go on to recommend that policymakers focus state resources on physical infrastructure needs -- roads, bridges, sewer lines, water pipes, water treatment facilities, schools, and other state government facilities -- and on the state's democratic infrastructure needs -- voting machines, systems to maintain voter rolls, and systems we use to count and protect votes.

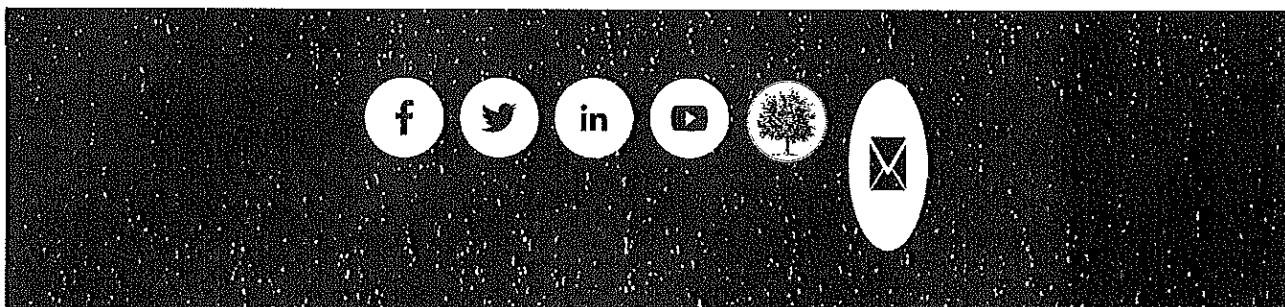
"While the specific ways in which we build and maintain Ohio's infrastructure are subject to debate, what isn't debatable is what taxpayer dollars should be spent on," said **Quinn Beeson**, an economic policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center** and co-author of the report. "Ohio's policymakers should use the capital budget on physical and democratic infrastructure rather than feel-good projects that could, and should, be funded through private means."

Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans was co-authored by Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and Quinn Beeson, an economic policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center.

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a

claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

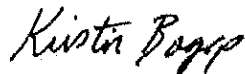
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:05 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Daniel Dew in The Columbus Dispatch "Ohioans really support bail reform"

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In a piece for *The Columbus Dispatch*, Buckeye's Daniel J. Dew calls out suspect polling being used by the American Bail Coalition to claim that people oppose bail reform.

Reputable polling, conducted and released using professional industry standards, shows 85 percent of people favor replacing cash bail with supervised release.

The Columbus Dispatch

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Ohioans really support bail reform

The Columbus Dispatch

Letter to the Editor

February 4, 2018

In his Jan. 26 op-ed, Jeffrey J. Clayton, executive director of the American Bail Coalition, touted a poll that claims Ohioans reject bail reform. Unfortunately, the poll's sample size of 100 people more closely resembled a "Family Feud" survey than a scientific study. At a minimum, the coalition should release the questions asked, the margin of error and whether the poll meets standards recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

Just last month, a national poll using industry standards found that 85 percent of people favored replacing cash bail with supervised release, especially in cases where the defendant does not pose a threat to society.

The outcomes from jurisdictions that have moved away from money bail and are using verified risk-assessment tools speak for themselves. In those jurisdictions, less crime is being committed by those awaiting trial, more defendants are showing up for court and defendants who enjoy the presumption of innocence can keep their jobs and support their families.

Whether the goal is public safety, fairness for the poor or saving taxpayer money, "the survey says" ... reform bail.

Daniel J. Dew

Legal fellow

The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center

Columbus

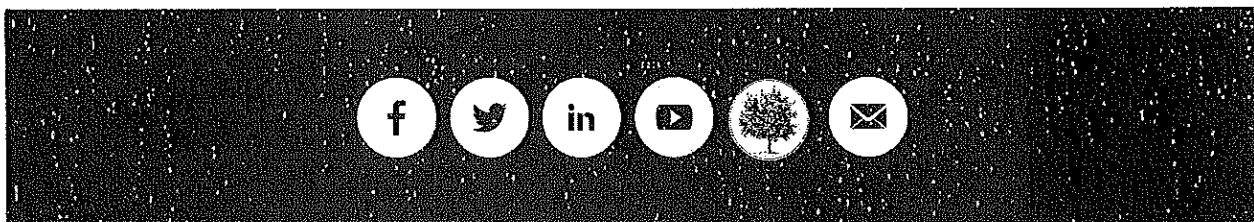
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The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual

liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Calls for the Protection of Taxpayers and Free Speech

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Calls for the Protection of Taxpayers and Free Speech

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Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute has joined a coalition of more than 100 organizations calling on Congress to protect taxpayers and their First Amendment rights to confidentially give to charitable organizations without the fear of intimidation (**Read the letter here**).

"Sadly, Americans have been intimidated, harassed, and even threatened for their political and religious beliefs, which should never happen in this country," said **Robert Alt**, president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute. "Americans have a First Amendment right to join, support, and speak collectively through organizations without

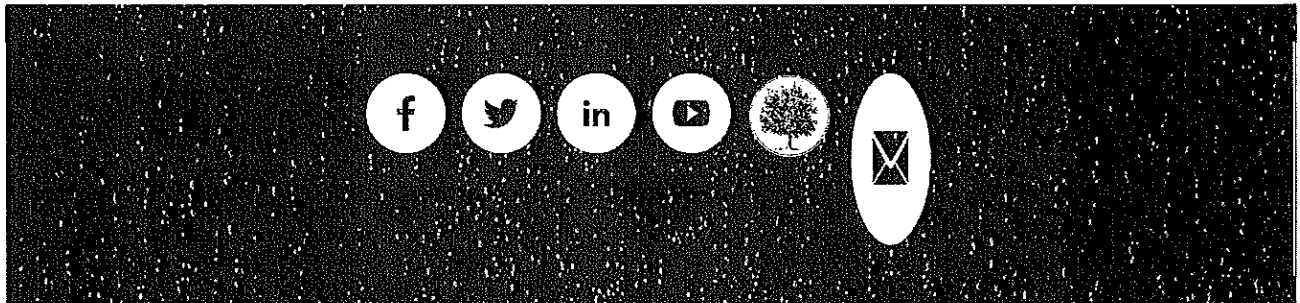
being put on a government list that is vulnerable to hackers and leaking to extremists who refuse to tolerate opposing views."

The coalition **sent a letter to Congress** calling for the elimination of the 990 Schedule B form requirement for 501(c) organizations, which is a mandatory IRS form that lists names and addresses of donors who give to private charities and other 501(c) organizations. Although the IRS is legally prohibited from using the information collected, the retention of this information, as the letter highlights, has resulted in intimidation and harassment of donors.

###

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Buckeye President Robert Alt in The Hill: Public-Employees Deserve a Voice in Selecting Their own Union

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

By now you've seen our **outdoor ads** and read about our **Worker Voting Rights** campaign to empower public employees with the voting rights they deserve.

Yesterday, Robert Alt, our president and CEO, had a **piece published in *The Hill*** arguing that it is time to give public employees the right to vote on the union that represents them at the bargaining table. Robert writes,

"But without a vote through which members can choose their own union, today's public-sector employees are rendered mute and unable to have a meaningful opportunity to select a new union or hold their current union accountable if it fails to meet expectations or protect its workers' interests."

It is hard to be opposed to giving people the right to vote, but unfortunately entrenched interests insist that our hard-working civil servants "simply wear the hand-me-down unions that their foremothers and fathers passed down from the Johnson and Carter years."

As Robert writes, "It is time for unions to embrace their democratic heritage and support their own members' right to vote. It is time for all of us to join together to create more

perfect unions. It is time for public employees to have a voice and a choice. It is time for worker voting rights."

THE HILL

Hand-me-down unions don't work for current workers

The Hill

By Robert Alt

February 8, 2018

This opinion piece appeared in The Hill, you can [read the full piece here](#).

The recent issue over a potential federal government shutdown reminded us that Americans rely on our public employees to provide and maintain important services across the country.

Federal, state, local or public-sector employees are too often represented by hand-me-down labor unions that current workers inherited from government employees of a bygone era.

Historically, labor unions have played a significant role in fighting for both workers' rights and fair representation at the bargaining table.

Labor unions laid the foundation for the democratic rights of marginalized minorities when black workers formed the Colored National Labor Union in 1869, 14 months before blacks secured the right to vote.

Thirty-five years later, the American Women's Trade Union launched a successful campaign for women's suffrage. Those bottom-up victories stand in stark contrast to today's top-down operation of unions that are now denying their own members the right to vote.

Unfortunately, union leaders who once fought so hard for democratic rights and representation have refused to recognize voting rights for their own members.

Rather than allow today's union members to have a real voice and a choice, entrenched labor leaders insist that these public-sector employees simply wear the hand-me-down unions that their foremothers and fathers passed down from the Johnson and Carter years.

In fact, **94 percent of current union members have never had the opportunity to vote** for which union will negotiate their pay, benefits, hours, and working conditions on their behalf.

Continue reading...

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Education bill sets up battle between teachers and administrators, businesses

Monday Feb. 12, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **License check:** A bill that would allow a superintendent to hire teachers for grades or subject areas for which they are not licensed is pitting teachers against superintendents and the business community.

Senate Bill 216, called the "Public School Deregulation Act," makes other sweeping changes, such as increasing to seven years the time non-teaching school employees must work to receive tenure, and changing teacher evaluations. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council back the bill. The Buckeye Association of School Administrators has coordinated a dozen superintendents' testimonies, from Berkshire village to Wyoming city, and is visiting individual lawmakers to drum up support, said the association's Tom Ash.

= 9 **Op-ed:** Among opponents are the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and teachers' unions across the state – including the Ohio Education Association. OEA President Becky Higgins said current licensing requirements ensure teachers are prepared for the classroom. But there may be room for negotiation because she said in an email to Capitol Letter the group supports the bill's change in teacher evaluations.

= 9 **Working out the details:** While the Department of Medicaid continues to develop its work requirement proposal for Medicaid expansion recipients, the Cleveland-based Center for Community Solutions said in a new policy paper that health insurers and providers may have to maintain more paperwork to keep people covered, an additional burden to them. Medicaid spokeswoman Melissa Ayers told Capitol Letter that once the proposal is released, there will be a 30-day public notice period and two public hearings before the proposal is sent to Washington for approval.

= 9 **Don't leave me:** Reps. John Patterson, a Jefferson Democrat, and Rick Carfagna, a Genoa Township Republican, have proposed a college loan repayment program for people with degrees from Ohio colleges and universities in science, technology, engineering and math – provided they stay in the state and work in their field. They believe such a workforce would spur innovation and the economy. The \$15 million loan repayment program in House Bill 396 would need to be renewed after next fiscal year, however, since the measure only provides one year of funding.

= 9 **Smack in the middle:** Ohio road performance and cost effectiveness are 26th highest in the country, according to a new report from the

libertarian Reason Foundation that looked at state spending, fatalities and federally designated deficient bridges.

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Retirement plan? State Rep. Bill Seitz has notified the Hamilton County Board of Elections that he plans to retire by the end of the year. But the Cincinnati lawmaker isn't going anywhere - it's a procedural move to collect his public pension while also collecting a legislative salary if he wins re-election this year - a maneuver known as "double-dipping," according to the Cincinnati Enquirer. Of course, it's also a way for Seitz to thumb his nose at his critics who have called on him to resign for making derogatory comments about a fellow lawmaker earlier this month.

= 9 **Double trouble:** Double-dipping is legal but controversial. Even the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, whose board Seitz sits on, has called for eliminating the practice.

= 9 **Picking favorites:** The Ohio Republican Party's state central committee weighed in Friday on Ohio's top GOP primary races, endorsing Mike DeWine for governor and Jim Renacci for U.S. Senate. As cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias explains, the decision opens the door for the endorsed candidates to get party assistance while pressuring the non-endorsed candidates to drop out.

= 9 **Taylor goes off on DeWine:** Gubernatorial candidate Mary Taylor and U.S. Senate hopeful Mike Gibbons gave the time-honored response for candidates passed over for an endorsement, saying it should be Ohio voters, not "establishment" insiders, who pick the winner. Taylor forcefully made her displeasure known. "You are sending a dangerous message that elections are about inevitability," she told central committee members. Taylor laid into DeWine at length, saying (among many other quotable lines) that he "has a liberal voting record as long as the line of babies he's kissed and hands he's shook." She also said she wouldn't support DeWine in the general election.

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Sexism at work? The central committee also got a talking-to from former Ashtabula County Treasurer Sandy O'Brien, who lost the party's endorsement for state treasurer to Robert Sprague. O'Brien said there is an "institutional bias" in favor of men, who can raise more money than